

# CONTINUITY

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Dedicated to Preserving San José's Architectural Heritage

Winter, 2011

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## A Different PAC\*SJ Annual Celebration

PAC\*SJ's annual celebration and fundraiser took a different turn this year. A more casual Trivia Night was held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the San Jose Woman's Club's landmark building.

Teams, with clever names related to history and the Valley, gathered at tables near the stage and wildly competed for bragging rights. There were five rounds of trivia questions related to Santa Clara County with the third round emphasizing local history. The winner of the third round will be honored with their name etched on a plaque installed at the History San Jose Hotel Lobby. This year's winner was the team, *Murgotten But Not Forgotten*, composed of members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. (A.P. Murgotten was one of the founders of the California Pioneers back in 1875.) The Pioneers do know their history and are hard to beat.

The team with the most points for all five rounds was "Dried But Not Forbidden Fruit," a name relating to the Valley's agricultural history. Congratulations! Members of winning round teams are listed on page 14.

Jim Zetterquist and Joe Melehan took charge of the Trivia Contest. Judge Paul Bernal selected the final questions and acted as referee. Bill Foley developed the power point

(Continued on page 2)



**Paul Bernal, referee and selector  
of the Trivia questions**



**History Round  
Winning Team,  
*Murgotten But Not  
Forgotten*, left to  
right, Tim Peddy,  
April and Hans Hal-  
berstadt, John Stolpe,  
and Rick Helin**

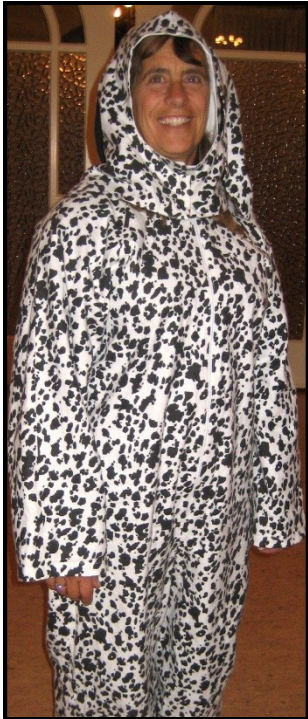
# A Different PAC\*SJ Annual Celebration (Cont'd)

presentation, where each question was displayed on screen, often with a relevant photo. The rest of the PAC\*SJ Board organized the food, drinks, decorations and set up. Thank you to all who made this event a success.

The event included gourmet pizza, salad, cookies, and beverages. The decorations were autumn inspired and in the spirit of Halloween. Some attendees wore costumes representing local historical figures. The winning costume was Lisa Wangsness (pictured right) as a member of the German Club that has a long history in San Jose.

Sales tables, a silent auction and a city landmark photo quiz rounded out the activities. The most interesting items in the silent auction were whale bones (very large) and a giant Elk hoof, fur and all, made into an ashtray (truly a unique item.)

The event was so successful PAC\*SJ just might repeat the event in 2012. Don't miss it.  (More photos on page 12)



*Left, Gilda Messmer as a firehouse Dalmatian; middle, John Frolli, Cici Green, Ron Maeder; right, Lisa Wangsness dressed in authentic German outfit as a German Club member. (Photos/text: G. Frank)*



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

## Become a PAC\*SJ Board Member

PAC\*SJ is looking for qualified applicants to be  
considered for openings on our Board.

If you think you would be interested, please review the  
Board member requirements and application on our web-  
site, [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). If you have questions, call  
us at 408-998-8105. We hope to hear from you.

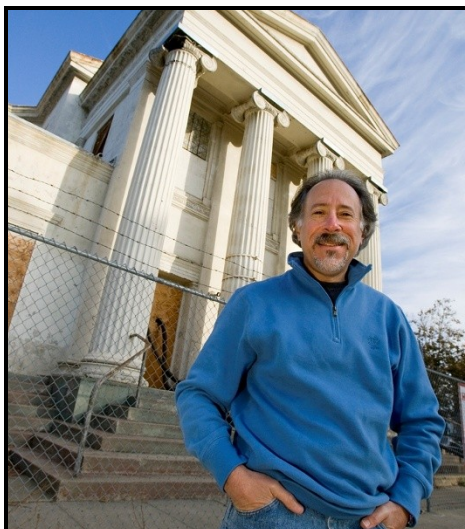


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# Executive Director's Message

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Someone once said, "I like Shakespeare except for all of the clichés." Well, another year is coming to an end and that brings to mind all kinds of clichés. How many times will we hear "I can't believe how fast the year went by?" or "It seems like we just celebrated that holiday." The list goes on and I'm sure you all know the classics and probably use most of them.



*Brian Grayson in front of First Church on St. James St.*

*Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers*

The funny thing about most of these clichés though is that they are often true. And they apply to much more than holidays or the end of the year. We're hearing more and more of them relating to historic preservation.

You've probably been hearing them as well, particularly as they relate to the financial mess facing most local governments as well as the Federal government. Have you heard the "there's no money for that" one? Or maybe you've enjoyed the "it's not that historic" comment that has been used to justify the demolition of such important buildings as the former MLK Library on West San Carlos Street.

The long, slow death of the MLK building should be complete by the time you read this. The building was torn down along with a collection of clichés that were attached to it like "there is no money for historic preservation" yet there was money to demolish a City landmark-eligible building.

Although times continue to be frustrating, we are doing what we can to advocate for the issues important to our community. And by "our community" I don't mean just the preservation community. Preserving the architectural heritage of San Jose is important to everyone who lives or visits here since it portrays the history and character of our city.

Speaking of clichés, this is my last column for the year so it's a good time for a brief year-end wrap-up. Simply put, PAC\*SJ has had a busy year. As funding for City staffing and historic preservation programs continued to dwindle, we began

regular meetings with the City Planning Department. These meetings have been beneficial in that they allow us to raise issues of concern and Planning can raise issues. We also continue to participate in the Historic Landmarks Commission meetings and we met with several members of the City Council during the year.

We co-sponsored a very successful downtown walking tour this summer. The event was sold-out and has inspired us to plan future tours. Already in the planning stages is a tour of Wolfe and Wolfe homes scheduled for next August.

Our annual Gala this year was a fun-filled Trivia Night. It was such a great mix of fun and history that we might do it again.

We also continued to hold our ever-growing Garage Sales. Thanks to an army of volunteers this event just keeps on expanding. Watch for our next sale in the Spring.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge. We have reduced our expenses considerably and continue to run a very lean organization. Please think of PAC\*SJ if you are making year-end contributions. Your support is very much appreciated.

The end of the year is also a good opportunity to say thanks. First, my thanks to Judy Stabile who will be leaving the Board at the end of the year. Judy has brought her expertise and thoughtfulness to the Board and we will miss her input but she will still be assisting us with the mission of PAC\*SJ.

Also, many thanks to our dedicated officers and Board members. PAC\*SJ would not exist without the efforts of the Board and our many volunteers. At the risk of forgetting someone if I attempt to name individuals, let me just thank everyone who has offered their support to us during the year.

Congratulations to our new officers and recently elected Board members.

Here's to a Happy and Healthy 2012. ☺

**Brian Grayson**  
**PAC\*SJ Executive Director**

# Surrounding Willow Street Pizza


The small, quaint brick building, known as *Willow Street Pizza*, at 1072 Willow Street has become engulfed in a huge, new development. At least we should be grateful that the historic structure has been saved from the wrecking ball. It is estimated the building was built in the early 1930s and is described as a Spanish Eclectic design. The building sports a cream façade with side walls of rustic brick and is topped with a half-gabled roof of Spanish tiles.



The "Touring Historic Willow Glen" book describes the various businesses that resided in this little structure as: 1934, *Willow Glen Recorder*, *Willow Glen Scavenger Co.*, *Bradley Thomas Publishing Co.*; 1938-1944, Cleaners, Confectionary; 1945-1957, *Willow Way Creamery*, a popular restaurant and fountain; 1957, *Pizza Village* and other pizza parlors; 1991, *Willow Street Pizza*, with other locations launched successfully later.

The massive three-story complex, called the *Town Square*, surrounds the little *Willow Street Pizza* building. The complex will include *Lou's Village Restaurant*, a large parking garage, and will house some of the businesses that resided on the corner before construction began last September. Renovation of *Willow Street Pizza* is included in the *Town Square* project, including a new bar area and an expanded patio. The remodel should be completed in December.



A *Willow Street Pizza* spokesman, Michael Jacobi, told "Continuity" they are delighted that downtown Willow Glen is evolving from a sleepy little berg to a trendy place to wine, dine, and shop. Since walking to nearby destinations is gaining popularity these days, Willow Glen neighbors will have greater choices to visit within walking distance of their homes. And for those who must drive to Willow Glen, parking will be less of a problem with the new garage right next to *Willow Street Pizza*. All the restaurants and shop owners anticipate that the new project will bring more visitors to downtown Willow Glen. 

G. Frank


Top photo, taken on August 26th. Above, taken in May of 2011 (G. Frank). Below, photo from years ago. Lower left, a vintage photo of *Village Pizza*.



Source: *Touring Historic Willow Glen, Ten Walking Loops*, History Committee of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association and PAC\*SJ, 2007.



# Losing a Piece of San Jose History

This is what it looks like when San Jose loses a piece of history. Photos were taken on October 30th, 2011. The former Martin Luther King Jr. Library, on West San Carlos Street, was slowly razed, erasing an architectural symbol of the heavy growth period of the 1960s-1970s in San Jose. By press time this unique blend of styles (modern, Spanish Colonial and Brutalism) will be gone from our Downtown, making way for a "modern" structural addition to the Convention Center. 

*Photos: G. Frank*





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# Preservation Loss—The Briones House

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## The Briones House is Gone! By Clark Akatiff

Despite years of effort, its listing as one of the most endangered historic buildings by the National Trust for Historical Preservation, the countless legal entanglements and reversals, in spite of all those things and others, in May of this year the "Old Girl" was decon-



structed, pried apart, piece by piece, and sold to the highest bidder.

This is a loss that cannot ever be regained. It reflects terribly on the sense of history and tradition that characterizes our modern Society. Given the vast wealth of our community, the fact that it took a mighty effort to raise the \$25K to save only a small section of wall, lets us know that historical preservation is always a difficult task.

Difficult, but necessary. So it was with that in mind that a small group of people, with the invaluable assistance of the City of Palo Alto, succeeded in purchasing and finding storage for a 12 foot section of the original building dating from before the Gold Rush, and the oldest such structure in our region. Additionally we acquired the stones said to have been gathered by the Indian Neophytes and which were constructed into a wall at the Briones-Nott Structure (Charles Nott was the second owner.) Much of the Nott addition was carefully deconstructed for the valuable first cut lumber which was used in the 1908 addition to the Casa. We also have other materials from the building, enough for a construction of a model.



Why do such a thing? You can never save the past. The past is gone, all one can do is save a memory of the past and a tangible link to the past, in the form of artifacts and monuments. That is what we have done; saved an artifact in order to create a monument. At this point there are various ideas of how the old wall can be used. My initial idea is that it could be erected in Esther Clark Park as a monument to two significant women in our regional history, Juana Briones, and Esther Clark. I envision a "portal to the past" with the old stones from the "Indian wall" flanking the remnant of the Casa. But others have spoken of an installation in the soon to be realized Palo Alto History Museum. Another thought is an installation in the newly completed Byxbee Park where it would once again stand on the hill overlooking the Santa Clara Valley, as it did in

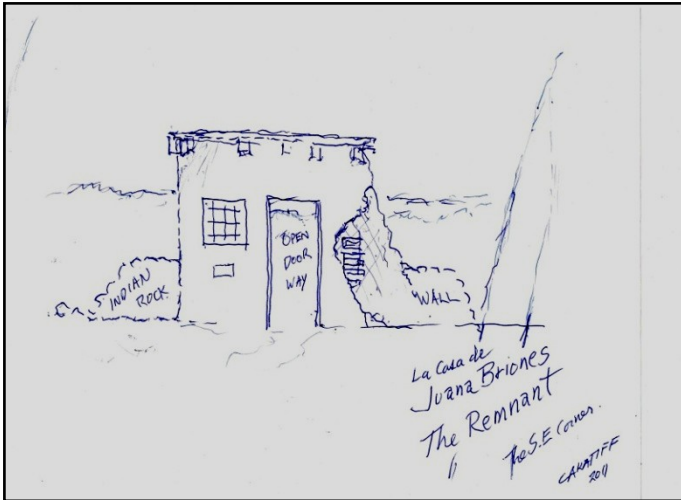
*(Continued on page 7)*



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# Briones House (Cont'd)

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original days. There is enough historic material left for multiple uses.

What is clear is that it will take the efforts of many cooperating persons and agencies to make this purchase something beyond a symbolic act. It is our intention to convene a meeting of interested persons, including all those who donated to the cost of purchase, to discuss our options and develop an action plan to make use of this remnant of the past.

If you are interested in this effort, please contact:

[forjuanab@yahoo.com](mailto:forjuanab@yahoo.com).

Clark Akatiff

Above, drawing of wall saved from the Briones House.

Right, the dismantling of the Briones House.

(Photos and drawing: Clark Akatiff)



**NEED A  
UNIQUE HOLIDAY GIFT?**

**GIVE A PAC\**SJ*  
MEMBERSHIP!**

(INCLUDES THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER)

**JUST GIVE US A CALL (408-998-8105)  
AND WE'LL SEND OUT THE HOLIDAY  
CARD NOTIFICATION.**

**MEMBERSHIPS START AT \$25-\$40.**

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## 2012 PAC\**SJ* Board Elected

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At PAC\**SJ*'s Annual Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Board was elected for 2012. They are listed below.

Joe Melehan, *President*

Erik Thacker, *Vice President*

Judith Henderson, *Treasurer*

Julia Howlett, *Secretary & Webmaster*

Helen Stevens, *Executive Board*

Gayle Frank, *Executive Board*

Sylvia Carrol

Patricia Curia

Ellen Garboske

Cici Green

Sharon McCauley

Jim Zetterquist

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# A Brief History of La Casa de Juana Briones

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*La Casa de Juana Briones* stood on a prominent rise which overlooked the Northern Santa Clara Valley. First constructed in the 1840s, the three room adobe style building which incorporated both a wooden framework with adobe infill, commanded a view far and wide. More than a dwelling, this was the headquarters of a 4000+ acre Mexican Land Grant Rancho which extended from near Stanford University south to present day Foothill College.

First granted to local Indians, the grant, *Rancho la Purisima Concepcion*, was purchased by Senora Juana Briones de Miranda, a remarkable, then middle aged woman who had descended directly from the Juan Bautista de Anza Party, and who, having been born in Villa de Branciforte (present day Santa Cruz), lived half of her young life in the San Francisco Presidio. She then moved to what we now call North Beach where she established a farm and a life (independent from an abusive spouse) by providing ships with fresh provisions as well as offering medical assistance and a safe haven for the increasing number of sailors. North Beach was known on early maps as "La Playa de Juana Briones."

Juana was part of a large extended family of early *Californios*. There were branches of the family on land grants in Half Moon Bay, Marin and the East bay. In spite of travel difficulties there was a real community through seasonal fandangos which brought the families together.

Juana was also very shrewd in attending to her interests. She made alliances among the incoming Anglo settlers, and sold the southern half of her land to Martin Murphy. She enlisted the aid of a prominent attorney who took her claim to land in the Presidio all the way to the Supreme Court, where her land claim was upheld. After establishing her ownership she divided much of the remaining portions of the rancho to her family and moved to the nearby town of Mayfield ( now in Palo Alto) where she died in 1889.

Around the time of the Great San Francisco Earthquake, a young man, Charles Nott, with interests in botany, came to the area and purchased that remnant of the land grant, with the intention of building a home for his family. His letters to his fiancée spoke of "an old wreck" of a building which he suggested should be replaced. But as it happened, the old wreck was more interesting than he expected because rather than destroying it, he saved most of it, updated it and built around it a remarkable Craftsman style building, with two story wings stretching westward that framed a patio enclosed on the west by a tall rock wall. The original east facing section and its veranda remained open to view the valley of the San Francisco Bay, as apricot orchards transformed the open grassland and oak community.

During the 1920s the house built by Juana and Nott became the home of a remarkable artistic community which included opera singers, painters, mosaicists, and actors. Edith Cox Eaton, the grand dame of the estate, also welcomed regular visits by buses full of school children on local history field trips. Across the street stood the then new house of another remarkable woman, Dr. Esther Clark, one of the founders of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic.

Clark Akatiff

*Clark Akatiff is a Geographer, and a long time resident and employee of the City of Palo Alto.*

For more details on earlier documentation of the Juana Briones house, by Corri Jimenez, go to our websiste, [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org), click on newsletters, and then Summer, 2007, cover story.



# Navy Misses the Point on Hangar One's Historic Redwood

Reprinted with permission from [www.nuqu.org](http://www.nuqu.org), November 2, 2011

Hangar One holds many historical surprises, revealing them only now, as the Navy strips the hangar's skin, exposing the naked skeleton beneath. The latest surprise is up to **\$2 million worth of redwood that lay unseen** under the corrugated skin for the past 80 years.

**And the Navy has given it away.** The community asked the Navy for help in saving the redwood, so it can be part of the Hangar's reuse, but the Navy simply missed the point of the question.

Like the historic cork room, which the Navy demolished after little testing and over the objections of the community, and like the Hangar's unique windows of thick, corrugated, reinforced glass, now being trucked to hazardous waste landfills, the Navy simply didn't (and doesn't) understand the historic significance of thousands of square feet of redwood planks that were sandwiched between the Hangar's ribs and corrugated skin. So, like the cork room and the windows, the Navy simply saw no reason to mention the redwood to the community until it was too late to save it.

As the Navy's demolition contractor started to remove the skin, some of us took photos, and we saw there was something still hiding in the ribs beneath. In the first photos, it appeared black and shiny. What was it, we wondered? The Navy replied, almost off-handedly, "Oh, that's the redwood sheathing." Wait, what? How much redwood? What condition is it in? What will happen to it?

Turns out the sheathing is contaminated. Not surprising, since it has been in contact with the materials in the skin and the lead paint used in the Hangar for almost a century. But the redwood can be planed to remove the surface contamination, and then re-used. It has salvage value, unlike the skin.

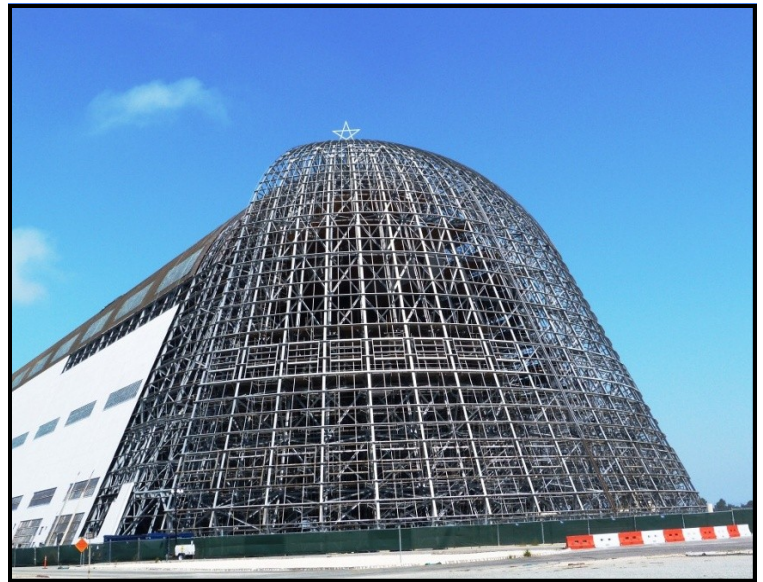
(Hearing that, we wondered why the redwood can be salvaged, but the cork could not. Especially since the minimal testing the Navy did on the cork didn't conclusively show how deeply it was contaminated, if at all.)

The next surprise was the big one: When the Navy hired the demolition contractor AMEC, the contract gave AMEC salvage rights to the redwood. Those salvage rights now have passed to a subcontractor.

In other words **the Navy sold off materials from the hangar to finance its demolition.** This is the same tactic the Navy wanted to apply when it originally "decided" to demolish the

Hangar altogether: The steel skeleton could be decontaminated, so the Navy figured it'd sell millions of pounds of steel to help pay for the demolition itself. That was one of the big objections the community raised in reversing the Navy's decision.

The difference this time is: The Navy never mentioned publicly that it had sold the redwood. We didn't find that out until we actually saw the redwood. We had asked to review the contract, where we might have discovered the salvage provision, but the Navy said it couldn't let the public see it, under competitive bidding laws. So we didn't know to ask.



*Skin completely removed on one side of Hangar One.*

*Taken 9/14/11*

Now that we know, the (Moffett) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) asked the Navy to work with the contractor to ensure the community would be given the first opportunity, and some time, to come up with a way to buy back some or all of the redwood and preserve it for use in whatever form is possible when the Hangar is preserved. The Navy has never responded to that idea. Instead, the Navy repeatedly cites findings of historic regulators that the redwood is not historically significant and, anyway, can't be reinstalled as the Hangar is re-skinned.

So I'll try to say this one more time, as clearly as I can: We're not suggesting that the sheathing should be reinstalled as part of re-skinning the Hangar. We understand that planing the redwood

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## Navy Misses the Point on Hangar One's Historic Redwood (*Cont'd*)

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will reduce its dimensions so it can't be reinstalled. We're not stupid. And we don't claim that the redwood is historically significant under the law. (I think it should be, but the regulators, apparently, don't agree.)

But, c'mon! Nearly a century ago, a bunch of old-growth redwood trees were cut and processed into tongue-in-groove boards, probably with steam or water power, lifted 70 feet in the air, and painstakingly assembled as part of this historic hangar. Imagine the historic significance, upon visiting a preserved Hangar One converted into a world-class museum and education center, of knowing that the flooring or paneling or other fixtures had been crafted of century-old redwood that has been part of the Hangar since the days of airships.

That's history, and it's worth trying to make it happen.

All we're asking is an assurance that the contractor won't sell the redwood until we've had a chance to bid on it. And the Navy has failed to help us get that assurance. I'll ask again. And if you're ever involved in a government action involving a historic community asset, I urge you to ask detailed questions about salvage rights. ☞

*Story and photos by Steve Williams, who is a pilot and aircraft owner from the San Francisco Bay Area. He maintains the [nuqu.org](http://nuqu.org) website which is a source of news for Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View and Sunnyvale, California*



You can listen or download the discussion of Hangar One, including preservation of the redwood, at the September 8 RAB meeting and read the full text of the Navy's response to the RAB at [www.savehangarone.org](http://www.savehangarone.org).

*Left photo, Looking from inside Hangar One through the steel frame to the sky.*

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## Campbell Approves Mills Act Program

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In October, the City of Campbell approved the establishment of the Mills Act Historic Property Tax Incentive Pilot Program. This means that Campbell joins the ranks of surrounding cities, such as San Jose and Saratoga, which also participate in the Mills Act Program.

The Mills Act benefits homeowners who preserve their historic property by a 40-60% property tax reduction. The amount of these saved monies are to be spent on

qualified home improvements. Five homes will be selected for the Pilot Program.

The city's general fund revenue most likely will be decreased during the present time of financial woes for the City. But the Program will benefit the City by preventing the deterioration and ultimate loss of historic homes. In addition, the Program will support local craftsmen and add jobs. ☞



# "In Grave Danger Gang" Recovers Headstones

On Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, a dedication was held at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in San Jose to celebrate the installation of two gravestones recently recovered by members of PAC\*SJ and the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The members call themselves the "In Grave Danger Gang" and are always on the lookout for headstones of local historical figures. The "Gang" includes Jim Zetterquist, Bill Foley, Tim Peddy, Bev Blockie, Rick Helin and Paul Bernal. They specialize in finding lost monuments, maintaining cemeteries, and honoring those who came before us by securing missing headstones and arranging for their return.

The November 2<sup>nd</sup> event celebrated the return of the Louis Pellier (1817-1872) headstone after eighty years of being lost. The second recovered headstone belongs to Pellier's nephew, Louis P. Pellier (1858-1873.) Louis Pellier was one of San Jose's most important citizens and considered the father of the vast prune industry in California, planting the first French prunes in San Jose in 1856. He and his brother Pierre Pellier ((1823-1894) also founded the Mirassou Winery in 1854.

Clyde Arbuckle, San Jose's late historian, discovered Louis Pellier's headstone at the abandoned Holy Cross Cemetery and took it for safekeeping around 1948. Eventually it was stored and forgotten at History San Jose. The nephew's headstone was rescued by Lee Lester, a rancher and orchardist whose property adjoined the old cemetery. After the San Jose diocese sold the Holy Cross property for a transportation project, they determined that all remains should be properly re-buried at Calvary Cemetery on Alum Rock Avenue. Around 1984, the Pelliers' remains were exhumed and re-buried at Calvary Cemetery in their own dedicated "Pioneer Section," with a monument memorializing the pioneers and their original resting place at Holy Cross Cemetery-but the headstones were missing. Thanks to Arbuckle, Lester and the "In Grave Danger Gang," an important piece of local history has been recovered and installed appropriately. Headstone expert Mike Brunetti of *California Monument* donated the foundations and prepared the markers to be placed above the remains of the Pelliers who were originally memorialized in the 1870s.

Speaking of the Pelliers, what is being done to restore Pellier Park in downtown San Jose? Pellier's original City Nursery, established in 1850, near what is now West Saint James and North San Pedro Streets (California Historic Landmark # 434,) is the approximate site of Pellier Park. Local citizens, businesses and historic organizations were instrumental in developing the Park, dedicating it on Nov. 29, 1977, the 200th birthday of the City of San Jose.

Pellier Park was wiped out around 2006 during the construction of a large condominium project, but the builder agreed to restore the Park, ostensibly by 2007. The Park was pathetic and closed to the public by a rusted iron gate even before the condominium project began.

The citizens of San Jose are becoming impatient with the delays and false promises and have heard all kinds of excuses for postponing the restoration. Louis Pellier was such an important part of San Jose's history and the lack of his recognition is deplorable. There is much concern as to the whereabouts of the artifacts from the park. Where are they stored and can they be accounted for? When is San Jose getting back its Park? Please let your city government representatives know that we are tired of waiting for our Pellier Park. ❧



*Left to right, Rick Helin, Paul Bernal, Jim Zetterquist, Lee Lester and Bev Blockie with headstones* (Photo: Patt Curia, Text: G. Frank)



# A Different PAC\*SJ Annual Celebration (cont'd)



*Clockwise from top left, Patt Curia as Dr. Euthanasia Meade; above right, Team 2; right, Judy Stabile and Judi Henderson; lower right, Gayle Frank as Clara Foltz; below, team 6 with Jeff Tindle, Karen Reid and Krista VanLaan; lower middle, Helen Stevens and Eric Thacker; lower left corner, Julia Howlett.*





# Sample of Trivia Night Questions

There were 59 questions in 5 rounds. Here are a few representative questions. See how many you can answer.  
(answers, page 22)

## Round #1, Arts & Architecture

1. In what Bay Area city did Mark Twain make his first public speaking appearance?
2. Which two famous actress sisters came from Saratoga and attended Los Gatos High School?
3. Prior to 1980, what was the largest house in Santa Clara County?

## Round #2, Sports

1. Who was the first American to break the 4 minute mile?  
Hint: He graduated from Lincoln High School and Cal.
2. Which Bay Area college football team won the 1941 Rose Bowl?
3. Which Bay Area college football team was the highest scoring team in the nation in both 1938 and 1939?

## Round #3, Hard Core Local History

1. Who is seated within the Great Seal of the State of California?
2. Who was the first governor of Alta California when San Jose was founded?
3. What gold rush era mine proved to be the most profitable?

## Round #4, Place Names

1. What street was the home of San Jose's "red-light" district until 1902? Hint: The street later changed the name to improve image.
2. What is the origin of the name of "Camden" Avenue?
3. Name two streets in San Jose that misspell the pioneer family's names.

## Round #5, Potpourri

1. Name one of the two oldest colleges in California.
2. What do Eggo (frozen waffles) and Oral B (toothbrushes) have in common?
3. Name the dirigible that was housed in Hangar One at Moffett Field.



*More photos at Trivia Night  
Top left, Tim Peddy and John  
Stolpe sample the pizza;  
above, Team 10 with Board  
member Sharon McCauley  
dressed as Rosie the Riveter;  
Lower left, Team 1, "The Last  
Lynching" (team names on  
page 14.)*

*(Photos: G. Frank)*

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# Trivia Night Sponsors

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Rob Bettencourt

Joan Bohnett

California Pioneers of Santa  
Clara County

Curtis Jones & Lucille Boone

Jack Douglas &  
Kathryn Young

Tom Duncanson

Ellen Garboske

Brian and Nina Grayson

Judi Henderson

Connie Foley



*Thank You*

*Thank You*

*Thank You*

Gayle Frank

International House, San  
Jose State University

Joe Melehan

Portuguese History Museum

Roy's Coffee Station

San Jose Woman's Club

Judy Stabile

Helen Stevens

Eric Thacker

James Williams

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## Trivia Night Winning Team Members

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Winners of Rounds 1, 2 and total  
points for all 5 rounds

**"Dried But Not Forbidden Fruit" Team**

Tracie Frandsen  
Dave Frandsen  
Celeste Martin Melehan  
Lisa Adamson  
Lynn Zetterquist  
Joanie Friessnig

Winners of Round 3 (the local his-  
tory round) and Round 4

**"Murgotten but not Forgotten" Team**

April Halberstadt  
Hans Halberstadt  
Tim Peddy  
John Stolpe  
Rick Helin

Winner of Round 5

**"The Last Lynching" Team**

Mignon Gibson  
Franklin Maggi  
Bev Blockie  
Leslie Masunaga  
Sarah Winder

The creative names of the other teams were: *Village Idiots, Young 'uns, Alma and Lexington, Cinco de Mind-o, We Don't Know Our History, Manabaom* and *13th Street Hounds*.

### Notable Quotable

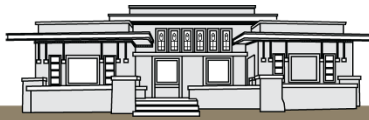
**"Preservationists are the only people in the world who are invariably confirmed in their wisdom after the fact....."**

-John Kenneth Galbraith, Presentation to National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1979



# PAC\*SJ Calendar 2011

- Feb 6** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Mar 19** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Mar 29-30** **PAC\*SJ Garage & Salvage Sale, 260 S. 13th St., Fri. 7-7, Sat 7-3.**  
Contact Patt Curia at pcuria@sbcglobal.net to donate or volunteer.
- Apr 16** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- May 21** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- June TBD** Watch for our walking tours during the month of June. Three tours will be held on separate days, The Alameda, Japan Town and Alviso. Stay tuned for dates and times.



## WOLFE & WOLFE PRAIRIE HOMES TOUR

August 18, 2012

Do you know that San Jose is one of the nation's primary centers for Prairie-style architecture? The Prairie School is an American indigenous architectural style developed in the Midwest in the late 1800s, featuring horizontal lines, flat or hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves, and windows grouped in horizontal bands. Frank Lloyd Wright was the most famous of the Prairie architects.

San Jose's own Frank Delos Wolfe and his son Carl made Prairie the signature style of their

architectural firm while they were in business together from 1912-1916. At least 40 of the Wolfe & Wolfe Prairie buildings still stand in San Jose today, with original interior and exterior details.

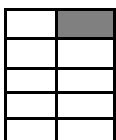
Save the date! August 18, 2012 is the Wolfe & Wolfe Prairie open homes tour sponsored by PAC\*SJ, showcasing beautiful Prairies in historic neighborhoods throughout the city.

**Tickets available in spring of 2012 at  
[www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org)**

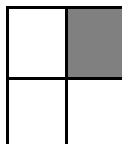
## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

*Continuity* is distributed to over 600 San José 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.

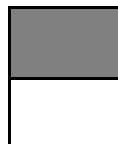
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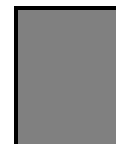
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**1/2 Page**  
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**Full Page**  
Single issue \$375  
3 issues \$700



# Trivia Night-Our Low-Tech Quiz

## IDENTIFY SAN JOSE LANDMARKS

Here is a picture of our low-tech trivia that was on display at Trivia Night.

See how many San Jose Landmarks you can identify?

If you've been reading *Continuity*, you will recognize most of them.

Go to our newsletter on our website to see clearer pictures in color.

Historic  
Preservation  
Is  
Good  
For  
Business  
And  
The  
Environment





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# Review of Preservation Organizations Nationally

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By Anne-Lise Velez

This is a brief review of research conducted to paint an overall picture of the self-reported activities by National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) Partner organizations. It also looks at significant differences in organizational qualities, programming, programming decision-making, and resource preservation among Partners in NTHP's six regions.

In order to determine this, 45-minute telephone interviews were conducted between October 2010 and September 2011 with executive directors or other leaders at 95 NTHP Partner organizations (or 79% of all Partner organizations) in 43 of the 48 states with active Partners. Leaders were asked about organizational characteristics including age; numbers of full and part-time staff; whether the organization is a membership organization; how many membership units the organization has; Board size; whether the organization publishes annual reports, and current mission statement content.

When interviews were complete, they were reviewed for common themes. Information that was quantifiable was analyzed using statistics software to determine if patterns that appeared actually indicated statistically significant differences between the regions—in some cases regional differences appear, but in many instances trends in NTHP Partner characteristics and behavior show national patterns.

The majority of NTHP Partners are member organizations, with a range of zero to 8,000 members, and an average of about 900. Partners range in size drastically from no employees at all to as many as 45 full-time and as many as 100 part-time employees, but most have one full-time and no part-time employees. Age of Partner organizations varies a lot as well, ranging from only 10 years to 140 years old, but the average organization is 37 years old with an average of 22 Board members.

The scope of preservation most often includes historic places or resources (specified in slightly over half of participating organizations' mission statements), architecture or built heritage (almost half), and cultural heritage or resources (about a quarter of groups.) The most common actions through which

preservation is being promoted—by about 35% of organizations—are education and advocacy or “providing a voice.” Engagement, or collaboration and encouragement of preservation is reported by about a sixth of Partners.

The most common programming focus reported by over half of NTHP Partners at this point in time is advocacy. About a third of the organizations reported focus on development activities, educational programming, and administration and management activities (i.e., historic designations, administering loans, managing covenants and easements.) Close behind were physical interventions including running revolving funds and engaging in restoration of property or rehabilitation of historic properties into low income housing.

An annual or biennial conference is the focus at about one in eight Partners. Input from Board and staff is the most common method of choosing which programs an organization will run each year, followed by funding concerns. Over half of the Partner organization leaders interviewed said there had been changes in the way programming decisions are made in their tenure with their organization, with most reporting the process is now more inclusive of staff abilities and input.

A high degree of sensitivity to local concerns can be inferred through the attention that NTHP Partners pay to local, community or neighborhood opinions, with no significant differences between regions in the solicitation of input from locals. A majority (84%) of organizations surveyed report soliciting public input actively through holding public meetings, conducting surveys, soliciting endangered list nominations, and sending staff into the field to collect information about local concerns. In addition, 82% report passive gathering of public input through emails, letters, or telephone calls they receive, responses to information they publish in newsletters or online, or members of the public dropping by their offices to ask questions or share information.

When the scope of preservation and the ways through which preservation is to be promoted are examined

*(Continued on page 18)*

# Review of Preservation Organizations Nationally (Cont'd)

regionally, some interesting patterns emerge. The Midwest and Southwest are identical in most often-mentioned scope preservation (historic resources, architectural or built heritage, and cultural resources,) and similar to the Southern region in actions taken to promote preservation (education, advocacy and collaboration or encouragement.) The Western and Mountains-Plains regions look similar to one another in terms of both scope and action, but the most common mission content in organizations in the Northeast region looks very different than the others. It is the only region that mentions landscapes and future development in the scope of preservation, lists engagement above advocacy and education, and includes technical assistance in actions to be taken to promote preservation.

Resources included in mission statements of NTHP Partners can be subsumed into three distinct philosophical categories: preservation of historic places and resources, preservation of heritage culture, and promotion of economic growth and vitality including re-use or continued use of structures. Viewed through this lens, the Southern and Mountain-Plains regions appear quite different from the other regions as well as the overall national scope of preservation because neither region's organizations show any concentration on economic growth in their mission content.

Perhaps of greatest interest to those in the preservation community is not necessarily how preservation is defined or carried out by others, but what types of resources are actually being preserved. At the national level, bridges, the built environment, and residential resources are most commonly preserved at this time followed by mid-century modern resources or the recent past, landmarks and historic sites, commercial structures, landscapes and parks, industrial structures, historic neighborhoods and districts, and religious

structures. Over a quarter of the organizations surveyed reported preservation of each of these resources. Other resources being preserved include mid-century modern, landmarks and historic sites, historic neighborhoods and districts. When viewed regionally, the Southern and Southwest regions were found to be significantly less likely than other regions to preserve open rural space, while the Southern, Midwest and Southwest are significantly less likely than the Mountain/ Plains, West or Northeast to report preservation of industrial resources. The Midwest is significantly more likely than the other regions to report focusing on bridge preservation. Preservation of mining resources was (unsurprisingly given the history of the regions) only mentioned by organizations in the Southwest, Mountain/Plains and West. Of the three regions, Mountain/Plains was significantly more likely than the other two to preserve mining resources. The Northeast is significantly more likely than other regions to report preservation of farm resources, industrial resources, and religious structures and less likely than others to report focusing on preservation of the built environment as a whole.

In short, the ways in which preservation is being promoted do not show as much regional differentiation as the ways in which preservation is defined and the types of resources being preserved by NTHP Partners. While it is interesting for those in the preservation community to have an overall view of the types of activities being done by other organizations, it is important to remember that even among Partner organizations, understandings of and values related to preservation are diverse, just like America's cultures and historic resources. ❧

*Anne-Lise Velez is a Public Administration doctoral student at North Carolina State University. The findings of her study are being previewed here for PAC\*SJ members. PAC\*SJ Executive Director Brian Grayson was among those interviewed for this study.*

## George Espinola Memorial Fund

*The Preservation Action Council has created the George Espinola Memorial Fund and is now receiving tax deductible donations to preserve his architectural legacy and to continue his educational interests. Checks, payable to Preservation Action Council of San Jose, may be sent to: PAC\*SJ, History Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. Please indicate the donation is for the George Espinola Memorial Fund. PAC\*SJ is a 501 c 3 non profit organization and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.*



# Exploring San Jose Landmarks

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

## HL86-44; Wehner Mansion Site: 7871 Prestwick Circle

The Wehner Mansion is located in the southwest foothills of San Jose, on land previously part of Rancho Yerba Buena, which is now the Villages adult community. William Wehner hired the prestigious Chicago firm of Burnham and Root to design his late Queen Ann style structure in 1888; construction was completed by 1891. This is the only known California residence designed by this firm, who were well-known for their landmark buildings in Chicago, San Francisco, New York and Washington D.C. Since Willis Polk, a prominent San Francisco architect, worked for the San Francisco office of Burnham and Root, it is thought he may have designed much of the plans.

The 6500 sq. ft. home was originally named Villa Lomas Azules, meaning Blue Hills Estate. With three stories and a full basement, it had 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 more added later) and 8 fireplaces. Interesting architectural features of the house include the repeated use of rounded arches in the doorways, porticos and the carriage entrance. The house has an enclosed sun porch in the front with a balcony above. The separate summer kitchen complements the main house with similar features.

William Wehner came from Germany, arrived in Chicago around 1860 and was a farmer, artist and astute business-

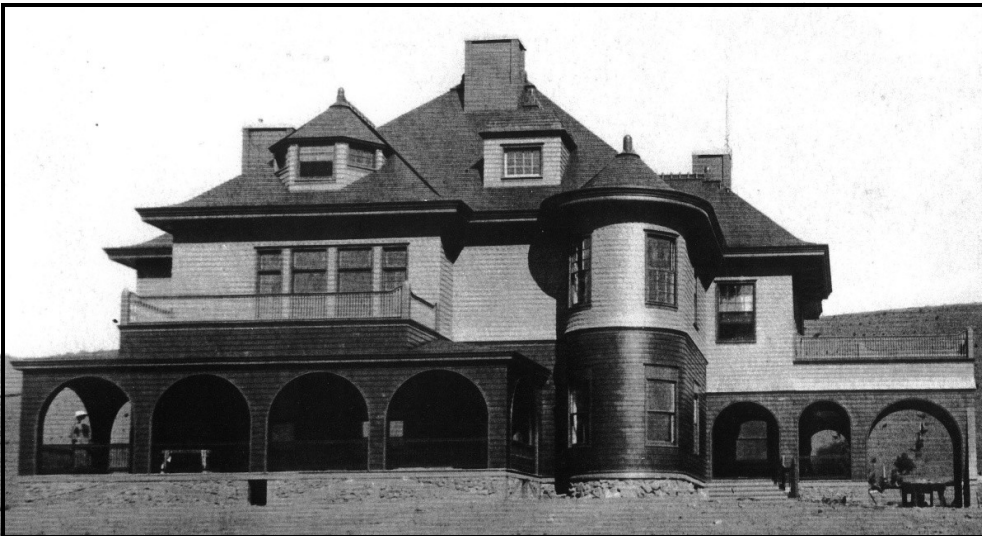


man. As an artist, William Wehner is best known for creating cycloramas. He operated the American Panorama Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in 1885, hired 13 German painters to paint the largest oil painting in the world. This cyclorama is still on display in Atlanta, four stories high and 358 feet long (was 400 feet long before restoration), and depicts the entire scene of the 1864 Battle of Atlanta.

William Wehner arrived in California with plentiful resources to finance, with his brother Ernest, a vast vineyard and winemaking enterprise they called Highlands Vineyard. Wehner soon became a leader in the California wine industry in addition to planting orchards of apricots, peaches, nectarines, prunes, pears and olives. But by 1915, the elderly Wehner sold major portions of his winery to Albert Haentze, who renamed the winery Rancho Villa Vista. Prohibition soon dampened business but by 1933, the Cribari family controlled and maintained the winery until

1959. The Cribari family lived in the Wehner Mansion between the 1930s and 1950s. Later, the nearby Mirassou Winery aged their wines in the Wehner winery building, built of stone and redwood in 1908.

*(Continued on page 20)*



*Above, Mr. William Wehner hosts a party at his home. Left, The Wehner Mansion, c. 1890s.*

*(Photos Courtesy of "The Villager")*



# Exploring San Jose Landmarks (Cont'd)

All winery buildings and barns regarded as historically significant were destroyed in 1994. The Wehner complex was considered "a complete historical exhibit of a 19<sup>th</sup> century estate winery" and should have been saved for posterity. "The Wehner estate could have been an extraordinary cultural resource" for San Jose. Now, the deterioration is extensive and we only hope that the house and the two small side buildings can be saved.



Sources: "Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley,"  
Jack Douglas, 1993.

<http://www.atlantacyclorama.org/history.php>

*Clockwise from top left, view of Wehner Mansion's carriage entrance, 2) damage at one of the entrances to the home, 3) view of Mansion's west side with sun porch and balcony, 4) deterioration at side entrance.*



(More photos on page 21)





## Exploring San Jose Landmarks (Cont'd)



### *Wehner Mansion photos continued-*

*Moving clockwise from top left,  
1) deteriorated support at carriage  
entrance, 2) view of house at SW corner,  
3) the summer kitchen, a separate small  
structure, in the Mansion style, a few  
feet away to the east, 4) the northern  
Mansion entrance on the opposite side of  
the carriage entrance, 5) the small garden  
house near the summer kitchen.*

*(Text/present day photos: G. Frank)*





## Answers to Trivia Questions

### Round #1 Arts & Architecture

1. Santa Clara
2. Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine
3. The Hayes Mansion

### Round #2 Sports

1. Don Bowden
2. Stanford
3. San Jose State

### Round #3 Hard Core Local History

1. Minerva, (goddess of wisdom and inventor of music)
2. Felipe de Neve
3. New Almaden Quicksilver (Mercury) Mines

### Round #4 Place Names

1. El Dorado Street (later named Post Street)
2. It was the road between CAMpbell and AlmaDEN
3. Stevens Creek (should be Stephens) and Quimby (should be Quinby)

### Round #5 Potpourri

1. Wesleyan College (which became COP and then UOP) and Santa Clara College (later University)
2. They were both invented in San Jose
3. The Macon



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## The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County



## FILM ARCHIVE



**Do you have films  
from the  
30's? 40's? 50's? 60's?**

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are assembling a FILM ARCHIVE of the history of Santa Clara Valley, and it is your films that will form its backbone. We are extremely interested in your old films of historic events, places and people. Future generations will be able to see San Jose as you saw it and understand history in a way that still pictures cannot express. Film doesn't last forever, and under the wrong conditions can decay quickly. The Pioneers have the equipment, expertise, and facilities to digitally convert, exhibit, and store films, preserving them for future generations and allowing you to view and share them more easily. 16mm, 8mm, Super8 or VHS footage is welcome and can be returned to you after being digitally converted. In return we will provide you a DVD copy of your film. To lend or donate your films to the California Pioneers and to posterity, please contact Bill Foley at [iamsparatacus@gmail.com](mailto:iamsparatacus@gmail.com) or 408-317-8249.



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# Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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## PAC\*SJ Membership Application

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

*We are using email as much as possible to notify members about news and events. Not providing an email address will make it more difficult for us to contact you about our important activities.*

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, the recently published book, *Signposts Revisited*, by Pat Loomis or the new PAC\*SJ's 20th Anniversary DVD produced by Bill Foley. Join at the \$250 level and receive both.

Please check if you would like to receive a book or DVD at the \$100 level: *Signposts Revisited*\_\_\_\_ or DVD\_\_\_\_ or both items at the \$250 level.

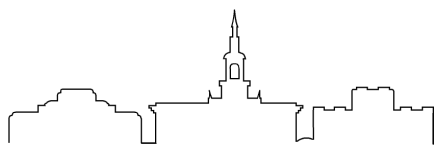
I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ as an extra donation to PAC\*SJ for a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in working with the following Committee(s) (*please check*):

- |                                   |                                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events   | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership         | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member |

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



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# CONTINUITY

The Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC\*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San José's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment**. We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San José 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.

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