

# CONTINUITY

Volume 30, No. 3

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

Fall 2019

## COVER STORY

- 1 Eichler's Fairglen Additions Home Tour

## PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 5 Celebration—Neon Pig Sign Re-lighting

## PAC\*SJ NEWS

- 7 Join Us! Rancho Fandango!
- 8 PAC\*SJ "Members Only" Event
- 9 On the RADAR
  - Willow Glen Trestle
  - 200 Park Place
  - City View Plaza Project
  - Pellicier Park Design
  - Valley Title Building
- 10 San Jose Unions, 8-hour Day & Temple Laundry
- 12 PAC\*SJ Calendar
- 12 In Memoriam: Carl Lindner
- 12 Notable Quotable

## PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 13 Walking Through Alviso's History
- 15 PAC\*SJ Member Saves Signs
- 16 Docent Fun at History San Jose
- 17 Federal Historic Tax Credit Bill
- 17 Century 22 Razed
- 18 Exploring San Jose Landmarks
  - El Paseo Court
- 19 Membership Form
- 19 New PAC\*SJ T-shirts Available
- 20 Board Roster

## Eichler's Fairglen Additions Home Tour



Residents in the Eichler's Fairglen Additions neighborhood had a lot to celebrate on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>—this year the District was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

PAC\*SJ partnered with the neighborhood to organize a home tour for a look at three different Eichler models, examples of gardens and landscaping, and a garage that showed off a model railroad exhibit, about 10' x 14', with mini-canneries, buildings and infrastructure from the 1930s.

Guests were treated to beautifully maintained homes that featured open spaces, visible beams, flat or low-pitched roofs, atriums or courtyards, floor-to-ceiling windows,

radiant heating and mahogany paneled walls. Furniture, décor and landscaping were always well-suited to this mid-century style. These architectural designs are meant for the Bay Area with its moderate climate.

The thirteen various designs in the three units within the Fairglen Additions District were created by *(Cont'd p. 2)*



# Fairglen (Cont'd)

architects Jones and Emmons, Anshen & Allen, and Claude Oakland between 1959 and 1961. The homes were built on previous fruit orchard lands and were generally "L" shaped with a courtyard or square-shaped with an atrium.

From 10 am until 2 pm guests toured the interior of the houses. There were also sales of unique mid-century items at a pop-up shop and a mid-day presentation by Sally Zarnowitz, AIA. She wrote the neighborhood's nomination for the National Register application and discussed the significance and uniqueness of the Eichler homes. In the written program Zarnowitz stated, "We're so lucky to live in a community that has collaborated to recognize this distinctive place that represents a sense of its time."

(Cont'd p. 3)



Top clockwise, an atrium; original kitchen; model train exhibit; fireplace/living room with windows on each side.

## CONTINUITY

is published quarterly by the

### PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE

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

© 2019 Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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



## Fairglen (Cont'd)

The hard work of the Fairglen Neighborhood Preservation Steering Committee, Co-chairs Sally Zarnowitz and Peter Hurd, and members Bill Pfahnl, Jerry Escobar, and Mike Domer, made this National Register listing possible. A large neighborhood street party on Fairwood Avenue began at 4 pm and all were invited.

Pam Foley, San Jose Council member for District 9 and a sponsor for the home tour, stated in the excellent written program, "The City of San Jose salutes the residents of Fairglen Additions for their foresight, perseverance and community spirit."

Kudos to Home Tour Co-chairs Patt Curia and Heather Haas and their committee, Sherry Hitchcock (volunteers coordinator), Dianne Pool (Registration), Sandy Swirsky and Mary Lou Mason (sales tables), and thanks to all the volunteer docents, especially those who worked double shifts! Special thanks to Heather David for the souvenir program text and photography, and Lisa Wangsness for the superb graphics and layout

Many visitors enjoyed experiencing the unique home designs inspired by Joseph Eichler sixty years ago. ☼



**More on page 4!**

*Top clockwise,  
original stovetop and cabinets,  
guest bathroom, and  
California outdoor living.*

*(Photos: Gayle Frank)*



# PAC\*SJ Thanks Home Tour Sponsors/Partners

## Salmon Pink Sponsors

Boyenga Property Team  
Erdal Swartz Eichler Team

## Partners

Antiques Colony      Maple Press  
LW Graphics      Vintporium  
Party Fiesta Balloon Décor  
Fairglen Neighborhood Preservation

## Daisy Yellow Sponsors

KEYCON Construction & Design  
Pam Foley, Council District 9  
Sally & Arthur Zarnowitz

## Homeowners

*(who graciously opened their homes for the tour)*

Thatcher-Slvngstad Residence  
Colcer-Butterfield Residence  
Bowdidge-Halverson Residence  
Ross-Büchner Residence



*Just some of our wonderful volunteers. From left, Sandy Swirsky, Mary Lou Mason, Luisa McEwen, Lynda Sereno, Patt Curia, Diane Pool, and Heather David.*

*(Photo: Patt Curia)*



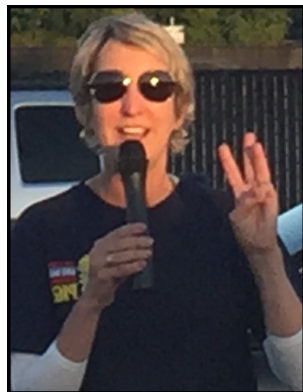
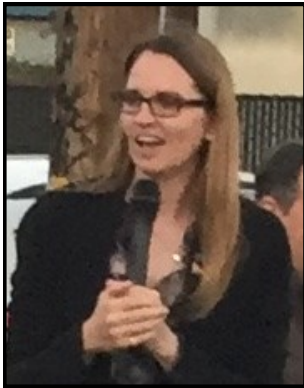
# Celebration—Neon Pig Sign Re-lighting

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, more than two hundred anxious people turned out for the celebration to re-light the Stephen's Meat Products Pig Sign. The parking lot at Montgomery and San Fernando Streets was filled with people, tables selling T-shirts, and a cart giving away Stephen's hot dogs, chips and sodas. Even dessert (four flavors of ice cream) was later served up by volunteers to the lively crowd.

As the sun started to set, PAC\*SJ President André Luthard welcomed all and spoke about the long and challenging two-year PAC\*SJ campaign to raise money to repair, restore and bring back to life San Jose's iconic dancing Pig Sign. André was Chair of the Campaign and his persistence and determination brought this restoration to completion.

San Jose Councilmember Dev Davis attended and spoke about her previous commute days on the train and remembers fondly seeing the wonderful neon dancing pig.

Author and preservationist Heather David spoke about the importance of saving San Jose's historic signs. She is the driving force for the San Jose Signs Project and the *Guide*



*Top left clockwise:  
Councilmember Dev  
Davis, Deputy City  
Manager Kim Walesh,  
and author/historian  
Heather David.*



to the *Vintage Signage of San Jose* booklet. Kim Walesh, Deputy City Manager, Harvey Darnell and Stephen Morrison, grandson of Stephen's Meat Products founder Stephen Pizzo, also spoke.

Once dusk arrived, we all held our breath as the announcement came. The Pig Sign was to be turned on! The music started and we all looked up. Brighter than many of us anticipated, the little arms and legs of our favorite piggy started swinging. Raves, shouts, oohs and awes came from the guests; what a great moment for historic restoration in San Jose.

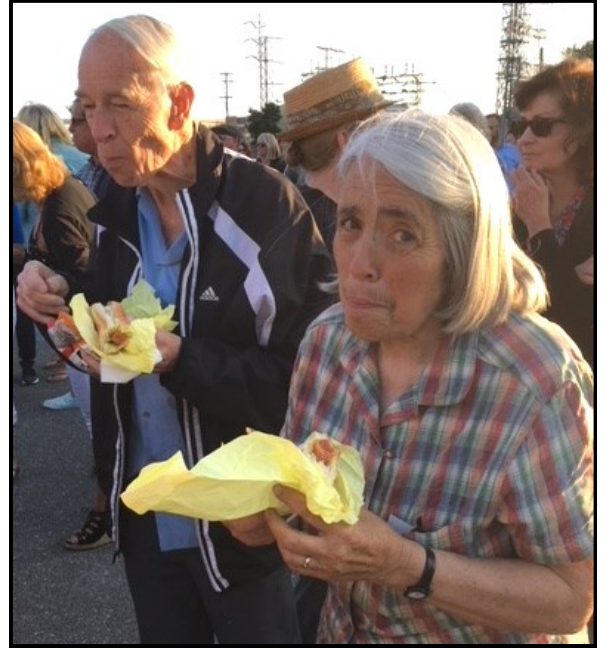
Thank you to the San Jose Community for pitching in with all your donations. Thanks to the sponsors, PAC\*SJ and Bassian Farms. Kudos also to Google, who cooperated with PAC\*SJ on this project and was supportive on restoring the Pig Sign. It has ensured us that the sign will be kept visible and protected.

The restoration work was performed by YESCO; Kevin Chong, a local glass artist, re-created the neon tubing.

This campaign proved that citizens in San Jose do love the historic fabric of our community. Keep wearing your pig T-shirts with pride. ☼ *(Photos cont'd p. 6)*



## Pig Sign Re-lighting (Cont'd)



*Top, Crowd waiting for the Pig Sign to light up.*

*Top right, Art and Sylvia Carroll enjoying hot dogs.*

*Above, Sharkie visits with Patt Curia, Marilyn Messina and Gayle Frank.*

*Right, Mr. Mustard handing out hot dogs.*

*(Photos: Lisa Wangsness and Gayle Frank)*





# RANCHO FANDANGO




**SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**  **5:00 pm–9:00 pm**


**Messina Family Orchard, 781 North Capitol Avenue, San José**

The Messina Family Orchard is the setting for this year's celebration. Located at North Capitol and Mabury Avenues, this five-acre site was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.


Come enjoy hay rides driven by a Percheron horse team, be amazed by the roping skills of a local cowboy, join the fandango dancers and find treasures at the PAC\* SJ Mercado. \* PAC\* SJ's retiring executive director, Brian Grayson and members of San Jose's original rancho families will be our honored guests. \* The evening will include BBQ, catered by Holy Cannoli!, and silent and live auctions of items unique to San Jose. \* Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing. \* Valet parking is included free of charge. \*

## Special Auction Items Include:

 Tour Watsonville's Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe and the Edna Kimbro Archives, led by the Friends of the Castro Adobe

Enjoy a weekend getaway at downtown San Jose's Hotel De Anza 



Celebrate San Jose's Birthday on November 29, 2019, in San Pedro Square, with *San Jose Mercury* Columnist Sal Pizarro

 Start the holidays with dinner for two at Burlingame's Sapore Restaurant followed by Pasquale's Christmas Show, on December 21, 2019

**Please Purchase Tickets by September 23rd**

**\$150 General \* \$125 Members \* \$25 Children Under 13**

For More Information, Contact Patt at [Fandango@preservation.org](mailto:Fandango@preservation.org),  
Visit [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org), or Phone 408-998-8105



# PAC\*SJ “Members Only” Tour to Iron Man Museum

A group tour to the Iron Man Museum is being organized for PAC\*SJ “Members Only” Event. We will meet on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Iron Man Museum in Sunnyvale at Hendy Ave.

The tour will include exhibit materials of historic interest related to Joshua Hendy Iron Works and the Sunnyvale operations of Westinghouse Electric and Northrop Grumman. The Joshua Hendy Iron Works is a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The Museum is located within the Northrop Grumman Marine Systems Plant. There is also a gift shop at the Museum.

The Joshua Hendy Iron Works was an American engineering company that existed from the 1850s to the late 1940s. It was at one time a world leader in mining technology and its equipment was used to build the Panama Canal, among other major projects. The company went on to serve many different markets during the course of



its existence, but is perhaps best remembered today for its contribution to the American shipbuilding industry during World War II—producing 28% of the steam engines that powered the thousands of WWII Liberty ships.

In 1947, the Joshua Hendy Iron Works was sold to the Westinghouse Corporation. In the postwar period, the plant continued to produce military equipment including missile launching and control systems for nuclear-powered submarines, and anti-aircraft guns. It also produced pressure hulls for undersea vehicles, nuclear power plant equipment, 216,000 horsepower (161,000 kW) wind tunnel compressors, large diameter radio telescopes, diesel engines and electrical equipment. In 1996, Westinghouse sold the plant to Northrop Grumman, which renamed it Northrop Grumman.

Specific directions will be sent to those PAC\*SJ members who register for the tour at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). Space is limited to 25-30 guests so reserve your spot early. All visitors must be U.S. citizens and all visitors' names must be submitted to the Museum by October 11th! It is also requested that guests bring their drivers license or DMV ID card to the tour. For questions email [gayle@preservation.org](mailto:gayle@preservation.org). ☞

*Source & Photos : IronManMuseum.com*





# ON THE RADAR



## Willow Glen Trestle

PAC\*SJ and Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle were thrilled on the outcome from the Sixth District Court of Appeal in San Jose. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Court granted an injunction called a *writ of supersedeas* that maintains the

status quo. This means the City of San Jose cannot demolish the Trestle while the CEQA appeal is pending during the coming year. And congratulations to ace lawyer, Susan Brandt-Hawley for a job well done! The original plan, before 2013, of incorporating the Trestle into the Three Creek Trails should have taken place years ago at a much lower cost.

This summer, the City prepared to demolish the Trestle in anticipation of a favorable (for them) court decision. Trees were removed, the channel was dammed, and an access roadway constructed, while machinery and porta-potties were put in place. One good result from all this: the fallen trees and brush from the 2017 flood were finally removed.

## 200 Park Place (H18-045)

This proposed development will demolish buildings and construct an office building approximately 300 feet tall on a 1.7 acre site on the SE corner of Park Avenue and Almaden Blvd. Since the project is within 150 feet of the City National Civic Auditorium and McCabe Hall, it is being reviewed and will require an impact analysis on its historic resources as part of the project's CEQA review.

Preservationists are concerned that the three projects surrounding the Auditorium must all be considered together and account for their cumulative impacts to the Auditorium. Now there is talk of demolishing McCabe Hall because of the new developments of Museum Place II and 200 Park Place. McCabe Hall is an extension of the Civic Auditorium built later (1964) and is an integral part of the site. Adequate delivery space to the Auditorium is reduced for semi-trailers and buses by these new developments. What's the answer for the developers? Tear down McCabe Hall, even after the project was said not to affect the historic resource?

## City View Plaza Project (H17-050)

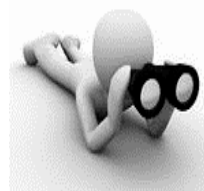
This development requires demolishing 960,567 square feet of buildings on this 6.9-acres site bounded by Park Avenue, Almaden Boulevard, San Fernando and Market Streets. PAC\*SJ's biggest concern is the loss of a Candidate City Landmark, the Bank of California (later the Sumitomo Bank) Building that was designed by world-renowned architect César Pelli. This unusual example of a Brutalist architectural style at 170 Park Avenue helps keep San Jose's varied landscape unique with representation of architectural styles through the decades.

## Pellier Park Design

The new design for Pellier Park was presented to the Historic Landmarks Commission on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. Some comments were generally favorable although concerns were stated. The wall containing the historic plaques is a boring, straight wall. The plaques themselves are sometimes too low to easily read. The abstract tree branch design on the wall looks more like an electronic circuit board. The exhibit needs information and marker for the original Pellier House. Only one prune tree planned for the site was a disappointment since Pellier was famous for his prunes.

## Valley Title Building (Former Hales)

PAC\*SJ urges that before development occurs, a determination is made to see if the original exterior still exists under the current cladding. Before developers proceed with projects, we strongly advocate that this and other 1<sup>st</sup> Street developments should respond and respect the nearby Sainte Claire Building as well as other historic buildings on S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.



## PAC\*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—

- Santana West
- Almaden Corner Hotel
- Graves House
- Winchester Ranch Park
- Wehner Mansion



# San Jose Unions, 8-Hour Day and Temple Laundry

By April Halberstadt

Our recent interest in the first IBM building in San Jose, occupied by the IBM punch card division from 1943 to 1960, has now revealed the structure has another claim to fame.

Several people pointed us toward clippings about the building's earlier owners, the Temple Laundry. They suggested the laundry was created to provide workers with an eight-hour day. The clippings were cryptic so we went looking for a more complete story.

The name of the Temple Laundry and a portion of the earliest structure at 16th and St. John Streets, come from the site's early ownership by the San Jose Labor Temple. The Temple Laundry was created as part of a Bay Area Laundry Union Committee action against the laundry owners across the Bay Area.

On April 1 in 1907, twelve hundred Laundry Workers went on strike for an eight-hour day and a wage increase. The strike shut down nine major laundries around the Bay, leaving only three small laundries in operation. The Laundry Workers' Committee waited for the employers for a negotiation meeting but finally marched to the Labor Temple and voted unanimously to strike.

The Temple Laundry was established as the result of a lock-out and the nucleus of the investment in the structure was made by each union man contributing five dollars. This plan of action was taken, according to the news article, in preference to declaring a strike benefit and workers were given jobs as soon as the new plant was

open. A large volume of local union laundry business was conducted through the Temple Laundry over the years, since organizations such as the barbers union and others used the Temple Laundry to launder their towels.

In 1912 the Temple Laundry was sold to a private firm. The news article then noted the laundry had been operated by the Labor Temple Association for the last four or five years and was sold to a private corporation of experienced laundrymen and investors. At the time the laundry employed 50 hands and was located at 14th and Santa Clara Streets. The Temple Laundry did very well and expanded, building additional laundry structures around the corner at 16th and St. John Streets. IBM bought these newer structures in 1943.

Local unions had employed a number of tactics to gain the eight-hour day. Wikipedia notes that interest in an eight-hour day began in 1791 when Philadelphia carpenters were allowed an eight-hour day and two hours for two meals. Demand for shorter hours took many years, but in 1886, 350,000 workers nationwide went on strike to support a Chicago action. The American Federation of Labor (A.F. of L.) set May 1, 1890 as the date to initiate an eight-hour day. United Mine workers won an eight-hour day in 1898 and the Building Trades (Cont'd p. 11)





# Temple Laundry (Cont'd)

Council (BTC) in San Francisco demanded an eight-hour day in 1900. The BTC established its own planing mill so its workers and members could get supplies for jobs in progress.

San Jose Trade Unions met for many years at a Labor Temple that was located on the second floor of 107 South 2nd Street. The City Directory for 1909 lists 40 trade organizations, most of them meeting on 2nd Street but a few with their own halls. Interest in building a Labor Temple for San Jose began to take shape in 1906 and union members began a series of fundraising efforts.

Other cities across the nation were building impressive labor halls, large structures that could be shared by a number of local unions. In San Jose, dances, plays and other entertainments were offered to raise the necessary funding. Architect Charles McKenzie made the preliminary designs for the new three-story building, which was planned for Second Street. A building site was purchased from the Christian Church on South Second Street near San Antonio. Forty contractors submitted bids in November of 1911 and a cornerstone ceremony was planned for Thanksgiving.

After six years of fund-raising and dreaming, plans were abandoned and a deal was made to acquire the old YMCA

building and remodel it. The structure was acquired in January and scheduled for occupancy in March. Dedication of the newly refurbished Labor Temple at 72 North 2nd Street finally took place in November.

The history of San Jose's Labor Temple is worthy of serious study since San Jose had active building trades organizations for decades. The Federated Trades were major supporters of the Japanese and Korean Exclusion League, sad to say. The Federation supported specific candidates, formed its own political party, and was very active in politics. Additional study of the Temple and its activities could be very revealing.

Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor arrived in San Jose in September of 1911 to speak on labor issues. And the famous Mother Jones addressed the Railroad Shopmen at the Turn Verein Hall on North 4th in January of 1912. The Musician's Union led a parade for her from the Labor Temple on North 2nd to the Hall.

While it does not seem that the San Jose Labor Temple was responsible for construction of all of the existing Temple Laundry structures, there is no doubt the name of the Temple Laundry comes directly as a result of the activities of the San Jose union and the Labor Temple participation in the efforts for an eight-hour day. ☘

## Sources:

- *San Jose City Directory*
- *Wikipedia (the history of the eight-hour day)*
- *San Jose Mercury News*

## Temple Laundry and employees, May 10, 1923.

*Photo Courtesy of San Jose State University Library Special Collections & Archives; John C. Gordon Collection.*





# PAC\*SJ 2019 Calendar

- Sept 16** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*
- Sept 22** Sunday, Viva Calle, 10 AM—3 PM. History Park, PAC\*SJ will be at Backesto Park.
- Sept 28** PAC\*SJ Fundraiser, **Rancho Fandango** at the Messina Historic District Site on N. Capitol Avenue. See details on page 7. Join us for a wingding of a party! Become a Sponsor!.
- Oct 19** PAC\*SJ “Members Only” Event. 10 AM-12 PM at the Iron Man Museum in Sunnyvale. Reserve your space at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). Space limited. See page 8 for details.
- Oct 21** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*
- Oct 24-26** PAC\*SJ’s Famous **Garage Sale**, 260 S. 13th St. Thurs-Fri, 9 AM-6 PM. Sat, 9-12 PM. To donate or volunteer, email to [donations@preservation.org](mailto:donations@preservation.org). Last one this year!!
- Nov 18** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, and Annual Meeting. 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*

*\*Check to ensure Board meeting location has not been changed.*

## In Memoriam

**Carl T. Lindner**

4/6/1922—6/14/2019

Carl Lindner passed away on June 14<sup>th</sup> in San Jose, where he was born. He was an active member in PAC\*SJ as well as serving as a docent for History San Jose, St. Joseph’s Cathedral and the California Theater (when it was still called the Fox). Not only did he love history but he was also a musician and fabulous gardener. With a B.S. and M.A. in economics he had a 35-year career in procurement for GTE in Mountain View. He also taught at San Jose City College.

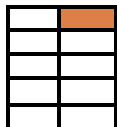
## Notable Quotable

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

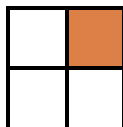
— John Kenneth Galbraith  
Presentation to the National Trust for Historic Preservation [1979]

## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

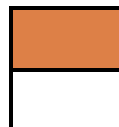
*Continuity* is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It’s a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC\*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.



**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

# Walking Through Alviso's Historic District

PAC\*SJ's July Historic Walking Tour through Alviso was a hit. This National Historic District holds many interesting stories from the last two centuries—from busy port activity to pleasure yachting; from saloons, gambling and ladies of the night to winter floods destroying homes and businesses; from being an independent town to annexation into San Jose; and much more.

Starting at the peaceful Alviso County Marina that looks out over the South Bay, we stopped to contemplate the historic plaque commemorating the Jenny Lind Steamboat Disaster back in 1853, and then moved down to the noteworthy Bayside Cannery, originating in Alviso in 1906 by Sai Yen Chew and his son Thomas Foon Chew after their San Francisco cannery crumbled in the earthquake. Bayside Cannery was the first major Chinese owned industry in Santa Clara County and hired hundreds of employees, at first mainly Chinese, but later workers of many ethnicities. It became the third largest cannery in the U.S. by 1931, the same year Thomas Chew died. What's left of the Spanish Colonial Revival cannery building we see today was built in 1929 during its expansion period. Portions of the cannery buildings were demolished to make way for a levee on the east bank of the Alviso Slough in 1958. Later occupants at the site included Bayshore Canning Co., De Flores Canning Co. during WWII, Cribari & Sons wine and food business and



*Tour Group in front of Wade Warehouse on El Dorado Street, Alviso*

finally the U.S. Fish & Wildlife that purchased the site in the 1970s.

Two other intact Bayside Cannery structures across the street have been renovated—the China Camp mess hall/bunk house and the Bayside Office. Both have been modernized, somewhat altered and are privately owned.

The J. J. Ortley Union Warehouse (c.1858), next door to Bayside Cannery, was carefully restored by Robert and Lonnie Gross in the early 1970s. One of the first cannery buildings in Santa Clara Valley, it was primarily used for cold storage for goods coming in or going out of the bustling Alviso Port.

Moving down Elizabeth and Catherine Streets we admired some lovely houses from the later 19th century: the Tilden/Laine House (1887), the John Martin Residence (c. 1860s), the Montagne House (1888) and the Robert Trevey Residence (c. 1902).

*(Cont'd p. 14)*

*Bayside Cannery on Hope Street.*





# Walking Tour (Cont'd)

We also passed by the old Southern Pacific Railroad Depot (c. 1904) that has been converted to a residence, but retains its depot appearance.

Also on the agenda, down on El Dorado Street, was the former Constable's Office/jail/courtroom (c. 1865) that has been transformed into a residence, and next door, the city landmarks—the Wade Residence and the Wade Warehouse, both in very poor condition. The Wade Residence (c. 1855) is a tiny, shuttered house that looks every bit its age. It was ordered from the East Coast and transported to Alviso for re-assembly about 165 years ago.

The Wade family arrived in Alviso in 1851 after a harrowing wagon trip from Illinois to Salt Lake City, and finally trapped in Death Valley. Part of the infamous Death Valley 49ers, the Wades went off on their own, found a route to Southern California with their wagon and oxen intact, the only family that made it out of Death Valley with its wagon. A Historic Landmark #622 stands four miles south of the Death Valley National Monument on Highway 127 to commemorate the route the Wades found that saved their lives.

The Wade Warehouse (c. 1860) was built by Harry Wade's eldest son, Harry George Wade, and is the other very old brick warehouse in Alviso. Being one of the earliest brick warehouses in Santa Clara County, the soft field-brick appears threatened by time. Some of the unique bricks are decomposing, loose and falling off at the corners; the general appearance is of great concern.



*South  
Bay  
Yacht  
Club*

*(Photos:  
Gayle  
Frank)*

Harry Wade arrived in Alviso because he knew freighting was in his blood. He established a business transporting goods such as lumber, grain, coal, food, supplies and even passengers. (He also operated the American Inn in Alviso until it burned.) The warehouse was used for storage of goods to be transported, a stable for the horses and a place to keep his wagons and stagecoach. The site has been used for several old western movies. Also on the walking tour agenda was



*Former Alviso Schoolhouse, now a Community Center.*

the one-room schoolhouse on Liberty Street where A. P. Giannini attended. It now serves as a community center and originally sat next to the larger, handsome school building that the City of San Jose tore down in 1968. We also walked by the first Alviso City Hall/Fire Station (c. 1933) and ended our tour at the unique South Bay Yacht Club (1903), a city landmark and an important contributing structure to the Historic District. We were invited to visit the interior of the Yacht Club during which Historian Russ Robinson gave a short presentation on the Club's history. Thank you Russ! We even climbed the stairs to the second floor look-out to view the Alviso Slough and Bay.

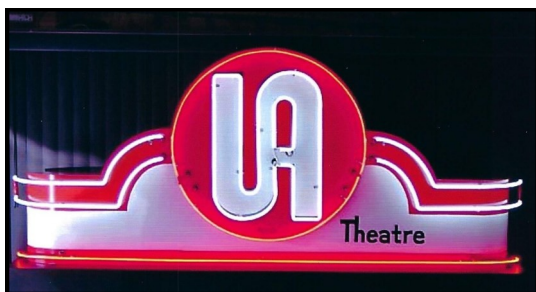
It was a fine day and we all enjoyed experiencing Alviso's rich history. ☘

—Gayle Frank

# PAC\*SJ Member Saves Signs

Kudos to long-time PAC\*SJ member Larry Camuso, who successfully saved from the scrap yard the Tire Service neon sign from the corner of S. 1<sup>st</sup> and Virginia Streets. Larry tells us this sign is personally very special to him because while riding in the family car to visit relatives in Willow Glen in the 1960s and 1970s, they invariably got delayed at the traffic signal at the corner of S. 1<sup>st</sup> & Virginia Streets. He said, "To my delight as I looked out the window I was fascinated watching the Tire Service sign rotating in glorious neon!" Since the sign has not been in operation for decades, Larry reminded us that most San Joseans are not aware that the tire portion of the sign was animated and appeared to rotate. Much like the dancing pig, this sign was one of the few animated neon signs in San Jose.

Larry credits Jim D'Amico who graciously gave him the tire sign and whose father Leonard D'Amico built the building.



Larry has also saved a San Jose neon theater sign—the "UA" theater neon button sign that he personally saved from the wrecking ball during the summer of 1976. He was only 16 years

old but even then appreciated preserving our history. Fifteen years ago he restored the sign and had it repainted by Ray Giese. (Ray's signature is on the sign.)



*Above, Leonard D'Amico's Tire Service Co. opened in 1946 and added two neon signs in the 1950s. Much later it became the Wheel Works.*



Along with the UA sign, a neon arrow sign from Mel's Drive-In restaurant on S. Van Ness in San Francisco is on display in Larry's car museum building. Again in 1976, he learned that Mel's was to be razed for redevelopment so he borrowed his mom's car, drove to San Francisco and convinced one of the demolition crew members to remove the arrow from the canopy—for \$20! That was a lot of money to a 16 year old in 1976.



Larry has also recently preserved a historic mosaic Hispanic mural at his latest Laundrux Coin Laundry development located at 987 E. Santa Clara Street. ☘

*Photos above and much of text: Larry Camuso.*

*Photo left: Courtesy of Sourisseau Academy for State & Local History, San Jose State University*



# Docent Fun at History San Jose By Ron Hagen

I've been a docent at History San Jose's History Park ever since the Victorian Preservation Association finished the Andrew Hill House restoration many years ago. This past year Alida Bray (former History San Jose CEO) asked me if I could staff the Pasetta House one weekend. The number of docents had greatly diminished and the Pasetta House/McKay Gallery, as advertised on the web page, is open from noon to 4 PM. I agreed and found it to be both relaxing and enjoyable.

The McKay galleries in the Pasetta House are basically self-guiding and don't require much explanation. Once you have greeted the visitors and given them a brief summary of the current exhibit, you can remain at the desk inside, or enjoy the shaded front porch and watch the activity in the park. I like to point out the photos and description of the Pasetta family and their original home location. Since this house is close to the main

gate, it is often the first one entered by visitors. As they finish their visit, I tell them about the gallery in the hotel, give them a flyer, and direct them to the other buildings that are likely to be open. It is important I believe to introduce the Park a bit to first time visitors. Each time I docent, there is always one person or more who wants to engage in a conversation about the park or the exhibit they have just seen which makes the day worth-while. One Sunday, a young woman, who was a first time visitor, was so enthusiastic she asked how to become a docent !

My best day was during a recent Sunday event and the houses were not required to be opened, but since I was there, decided to open the Pasetta House. As I walked over with keys in hand, there was a small group sitting on the porch who greeted me with applause. In the group was Rob Bettencourt, grandson of the Pasetta family and responsible for moving the house to History Park and restoring the home. He had brought some friends to see his grandparents home and view the exhibit! We had a great chat and I asked him to give the tour since he certainly knew more than I did ! There had been no one available to docent until I showed up. It was a great day for all of us. ☘

*Ron Hagen is a PAC\*SJ member extraordinaire. He volunteers at our garage/salvage sales and for many other events throughout the year. PAC\*SJ Board member Sylvia Carroll also spends much time as a docent at the Pasetta House as well as strongly supporting PAC\*SJ's events and business.*



*Pasetta House (c. 1905) at History Park. It was donated, moved from 196 W. St. James Street, and restored here in the 1980s by Pasetta's grandson Rob Bettencourt. This is a neo-classic rowhouse built and occupied by the Mateo Pasettas and their nine children. Born in Yugoslavia in 1865, Mateo Pasetta arrived in the United States in 1882. He settled in San Jose in 1896, and became involved in the fruit drying industry, establishing several packing plants and orchards.*

*(Photo: historysanjose.org)*

**To volunteer at History Park as a docent  
or in another capacity, visit  
<http://historysanjose.org/wp/volunteer/>  
and fill out the volunteer  
application form.**

## Tax Credit Bill

PAC\*SJ is pleased that California Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (District 19) is co-sponsoring the Federal Historic Tax Credit Act (H.R. 2825), which encourages preserving historic resources. Here is her statement to April Halberstadt, a PAC\*SJ Advisory Board Member and Santa Clara County Heritage Commissioner.

“Dear Mrs. Halberstadt:  
Thank you for contacting me to express your support for H.R. 2825, the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act. I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts with me and I agree with you.

I hope you will be pleased to know that due in part to your advocacy I have decided to co-sponsor this bill. The Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. While I am not a member of this committee, please know that I would expect to support H.R. 2825 should this bill be brought up for a vote on the House floor.

Again, thanks for being in touch. If I may ever be of any assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Zoe Lofgren,  
Member of U.S. Congress “

## Century 22 Theater Razed



*Century 22 Theater on Aug. 3, 2019.*



*Rubble left from Century 22 Theater on Aug. 8, 2019.*



*Landmark Century 21 Theater, still waiting for restoration, Aug. 8, 2019.*



*Century 23 Theater, waiting for the ax to fall, Aug 8, 2019. . (Photos: Gayle Frank)*



# 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 at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org).

## HL92-81; El Paseo Court, 40-44 S. 1st Street.

The El Paseo Court (pictured below) at 40-44 S. 1st Street, an original example of Spanish Colonial Revival architectural design, was built by G.W.P. Jensen builders in 1932. The building is unique because it surrounds a large courtyard, entered through a center arched opening, with business fronts facing each other. Shops usually occupy the ground floor with offices residing on the second floor. The courtyard floor of ceramic red tile complements the mosaic tiled fountain, while flowers, wrought iron railings and stairs trimmed with colored tiles complete the picture. The decoration and ornamentation add to the uniqueness of this two-story building. The roof of red tiles, wrought iron balconies on the second floor and French windows stand out from the other buildings along the street.

This architectural style may be the only commercial example in downtown San Jose. It was constructed for Mrs. O. D. Richardson in 1932 for \$25,000. The architect is unknown.

The present owner applied for a Mills Act contract with the City of San Jose in 2016. The approved contract will ensure upgrades and repairs to help preserve this wonderful building while receiving some tax advantages.

An interesting bit of history tells us that on this site in the 1870s there was Charley's Bar that catered to the New Almaden Cornish workers. Each Saturday night a stage coach dropped the mine workers (called Cousin Jacks) off at the bar, picking them up a few hours later in various forms of inebriation to return to the mines. ☿

—Gayle Frank

### Sources:

—*Historic Resources Inventory Report, Glory Anne Laffey, Nov. 8, 1991*

—*Historic Downtown Walking Tour Binder, History San Jose*



Photo: Gayle Frank

# PAC\*SJ Membership Application

## Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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, the book, *Tales of Naglee Park* by Jack Douglas or a Dancing Pig t-shirt (XL, or XXL).

Please check if you would like to receive  
a book or t-shirt or no premium

*Tales of Naglee Park* \_\_\_\_ or t-shirt \_\_\_\_ or none \_\_\_\_  
or both book & t-shirt 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  
volunteer opportunities (*please circle*):

**Advocacy**

**Fundraising**

**Membership**

**Newsletter**

**Programs/Education**

**Events**

**Board Member**

**Public Relations**

**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



## PAC\*SJ New T-shirts Here!

Buy your limited  
San Jose T-shirt with each letter  
representing a significant  
neon sign in San Jose.

Shirts may be ordered at  
**donations@preservation.org**

for \$25 plus \$3 shipping  
for a total of \$28.

(Sizes S—4XL)





Preservation Action Council of San Jose

1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599

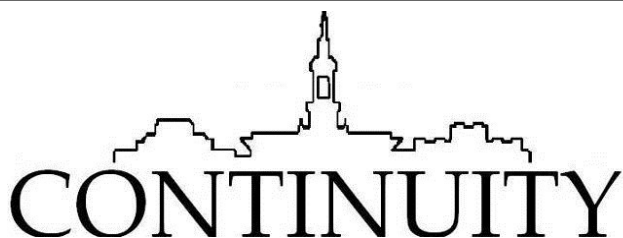


*Like Us On Facebook!*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 384

Or Current Resident

## JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose PAC\*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San Jose'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 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 2019 Board

André Luthard, President

Michael Sodergren, V.P. Advocacy

Walter Soellner, Treasurer

Patt Curia, Secretary

Cindy Atmore

Sylvia Carroll

José De La Cruz

Gayle Frank

John Frolli

Marilyn Messina

John Mitchell

Gratia Rankin

Suhita Shirodkar

### Advisory Board

Bonnie Bamburg

Marvin Bamburg, AIA

Paul Bernal, Esquire

Heather David

Ken Fowler, CPA

April Halberstadt

Rusty Lutz

Franklin Maggi

Craig Mineweaser, AIA