

CONTINUITY

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

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Celebrating Wolfe & Higgins' Masterworks

On August 25th and 26th, PAC*SJ members and guests celebrated the architectural masterworks of the early 20th century firm, Wolfe & Higgins, of San Jose. The Pre-Tour Gala and the Wolfe & Higgins Home Tour both sold out and were great successes.

Attendees appreciated the artful and classic designs of all the homes, some of average size and some very large.

This was PAC*SJ's third Home Tour featuring the partnerships of Frank Delos Wolfe.

A Wolfe & Wolfe Tour was held in 2012, a Wolfe & McKenzie Tour in 2014 and now finally this year, the 1920s era of the Wolfe (Frank & Carl) and William Higgins architectural firm.

Many thanks to the property owners who so graciously opened their homes for the Tour and allowed visitors to experience the beautifully designed structures and their unique interiors.

(Cont'd p. 3)



Home Tour attendees about to enter the Maderis House on Aug. 26.

Executive Director's Message

The summer was busy with finalizing the plans for a very successful Wolfe & Higgins Historic Homes Tour held in late August. Nearly 1000 Spanish Revival enthusiasts from all over the Bay Area came to San Jose to tour eight outstanding examples of the architecture of Frank Wolfe and William Higgins.

In addition to the many people who attended the tour and/or the pre-party the night before the tour, we were honored to have relatives of both Frank Wolfe and William Higgins also in attendance.

The list of people to thank is a long one. It takes an army of volunteers to plan and execute a successful home tour – especially one featuring eight homes/buildings. Many of the people involved are listed elsewhere in this newsletter but I also want to issue some thanks as well.

The tour was chaired by author Krista Van Laan who started a year ago pulling all of the details together to ensure an outstanding event. She secured the houses, made sure each house had a captain and docents to guide visitors through the homes, and dealt with the mountain of other details necessary to produce a successful tour. Many thanks to Krista for her efforts.

Of course, she had a hardworking committee to help with the many details and tasks. My thanks also to all of them for their dedication.

Thanks also to Lisa and Steve Berry for opening their beautiful home for our Friday evening tour kickoff party. Over 100 guests enjoyed their hospitality and the opportunity to view their wonderful house.

The Wolfe and Higgins Historic Homes Tour was a great opportunity to showcase just a few of San Jose's outstanding collection of historic homes. It allows us to highlight the importance of historic preservation and how our historic resources add so much to the character of our city.

In addition, the tour is also a fundraiser for PAC*SJ, and the party and Home Tour were our most successful events ever. Thanks again to everyone who attended and to all of those who worked so hard to make this such a successful program!

In my Summer message, I wrote about how we are continuing our efforts to save our historic structures but that San Jose continues its march towards thinning out our historic resources from the cityscape.



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

Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

Now another historic building is in the cross-hairs of the wrecking ball, 170 Park Avenue. This building most recently housed the Santa Clara County Superior Court and a bank before that. The site is prime for development—this is the second proposal in recent years and both plans proposed demolishing the building.

While some people decry the building as “ugly,” it’s an excellent example of the minimalist school of modern architecture and was designed by world renowned architect Cesar Pelli. As we have argued many times before, the historic integrity of a building is **not** determined by who “likes” the structure.

Regardless of whether or not one thinks the building is visually pleasing or not, we are growing tired of the City not doing more to protect our dwindling historic resources. As I have said previously, it is not enough to let our historic buildings be demolished and be replaced only with a plaque or commemorative display. If, as a last resort, a historic building is going to be demolished, the city should require significant mitigations for the loss in the form of financial compensation for the City's Historic Preservation Programs. Money won't make up for the loss of another historic resource, but at least it would help strengthen the City's Historic Preservation Programs which have been underfunded for years.

The City must get serious about protecting our ever-shrinking inventory of historic resources. They must better protect our historic buildings and demand more from developers when the only solution is demolition. To do anything less is a slap in the face to our history and the character of our city.

Although we were saddened by the recent passing of our friend and longtime member, Marcella Sherman, she remembered us with a significant bequest that will allow us to continue our work as well as look at new programs and new ways of fulfilling our mission of preserving the architectural heritage of San Jose. Our thanks to Marcella for remembering us and we will remember her

(Cont'd p. 6)



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Celebrating Wolfe & Higgins (Cont'd)

Guests attending the Gala Pre-tour party enjoyed delicious food by Catered Too!, background music, a tour through the William Higgins Home, reconnecting with friends, and meeting new preservation advocates.

The Home Tour on Saturday was very well attended and the weather was warm but luckily did not reach the heat of the following days. Docents pointed out the unique points of interest within each house and building.

A boutique, organized by Patt Curia, and an exhibit by Stonelight Tile were located at the Maderis House.

After the Home Tour ended, Krista Van Laan hosted a dinner at her Prairie-style Wolfe home for the docents and volunteers where stories of the day were exchanged. After such a full day, by that time everyone was hot and very tired. ☘

(Stars of Home Tour on p. 4)



*At the Gala, homeowners of the Tour, left to right Kevin and Vivian O'Connell (Williams House) with Lisa Berry (Higgins House) in between, Sally Logothetti (Rose House), Larry Camuso (Maderis House), John and Carol Traub (Wright House), Krista Van Laan (Home Tour Chair), Brian Grayson (PAC*SJ Director), Shanna Desai (PAC*SJ President), Reverend Sylvia Karuna Lunt (Bigley House). Not pictured: Jackie and Todd Courtney (Dreischmeyer House), Bernadette DeMao Hunter (DeNegri House), and Mark Cardosa (Packard Showroom).*



Left, Home Tour Chair, Krista Van Laan with William Ernest Higgins' granddaughter, Jane Hauser

*Right, Hosts of the PAC*SJ Pre-tour Gala are Lisa Berry on right & daughter Eleanor Berry. Steve Berry not pictured.*

(Photos: Craig Bohn)



Stars of the Home Tour



*On page 1
the Clara
& Anthony
Maderis
House on
Sequoia
Avenue is
pictured.
Built
1925.*

*Above, the Kate & Robert
Wright House on Emory
Street. Built 1922.*

*Right, the Mary &
Charles Bigley House on
The Alameda. Built 1928.*

*Below, the Cerruti & Col
Packard Dealership on
The Alameda. Built 1929.*



*Photos
by
Krista
Van
Laan*

*(Cont'd
p. 5)*

Stars (Cont'd)



*Top left, the Rosa & Arthur Clare/
Mary Denegri
House on Mariposa
Avenue. Built 1930.*



*Center left, the
Mildred & John S.
Williams Jr. House
on Glenn Avenue.
Built 1922.*



*Lower left, the Lo-
lita & Dr.
Louis Rose
House on
Pershing Avenue.
Built 1924.*

*Photos by
Krista Van Laan*

(Cont'd p. 6)

Stars (Cont'd)



*Left, the
Caroline &
Frank
Dreisch-
meyer
House on
Willow
Street.
Built 1923.*

Thank You Home Tour Committee: It takes a lot of people to make a Home Tour event happen. We could not have done this without all of you. **Special thanks to Krista Van Laan who chaired this event and spent many, many hours on it**, and thank you to the Tour Committee listed below:

Deborah Arant, Lisa Berry, Joan Bohnett, Darryl Boyd, Sylvia Carroll, Patt Curia, Shanna Desai, Gayle Frank, Brian Grayson, Tricia Hill, Julia Howlett, Andre Luthard, Stella Phua, Lisa Ruder, Marcy Van Laan, Monika Varsanyi, Susan Walker, Carrie Washburn

And, thanks to all of the many volunteers who helped as house captains, docents, ticket-takers, sales help, and more. A huge thank you also to the owners, for sharing your beautiful homes and buildings with us.

E.D. Message (Cont'd)

through the work we will be able to continue to do as a result of her most generous gesture.

The San Jose Signs Project Guide continues to sell well. We sold out of our first printing and have just received the copies from our second printing. Copies of the guide are available through our website or at the Antiques Colony on W. San Carlos Street and in the gift shop at History Park.

San Jose's great collection of signs continues to be in jeopardy due to development. We will continue to work with the City and others to save as many of the signs as possible. High on our list is still the Stephen's Meat Dancing Pig sign. We would like to have it remain in place and restored so the pig can once again dance happily for all to see. Perhaps Google will step up and restore the sign and keep it on

site as a landmark for their potential city-changing project. How about it, Google?

Finally, a word of caution to our members and supporters. Our database manager had her laptop stolen recently. The laptop contained the PAC*SJ membership list and database. The computer was password protected and the database requires a username and password for access so we are reasonably confident the data is secure. Also, no financial information is contained or connected with the database, but we did want to make you aware of this theft.

So, thanks again to everyone who attended and/or worked on our Wolfe and Higgins Historic Homes Tour. It was a lot of hard work but worth every moment of it.

—Brian Grayson, Executive Director, PAC*SJ

Preservation Kudos

A New Street Name for History San Jose

The late Lee Lester was honored at the History San Jose annual fundraiser, Valley of Heart's Delight on June 24th, 2017. His daughter, Linda L. Lester, attended the event and accepted the street sign, "Lee Lester Street," that will become the signpost for History San Jose's main street. The Lester family has a rich agricultural history in the Santa Clara Valley and has been a very significant supporter for History San Jose throughout the years.

Rebuilding Santa Clara Downtown

A plan for an eight-block area of the City of Santa Clara is in the works to somewhat replicate the earlier historical buildings such as the Wilson's Bakery, The Santa Clara Creamery, City Hall, Wade's Pharmacy and The Santa Clara Theatre. These structures were all the victims of "urban renewal" popular in the 1960s. Thus, modernization demolished Santa Clara's downtown. In the words of Santa Clara natives Don Ondrasek and Rod Dunham, "We lost our city's heart, the place you can point to and say: 'There is Santa Clara.'" The proposed area extends from Monroe, Homestead, Lafayette and Benton Streets.

Rod Dunham started a Facebook page in 2016 that proposed returning the downtown to its former character. The Facebook page has grown to 1,200 people and interest in this idea is spreading. Their vision includes: returning the original street footprint; returning key architectural buildings and features; protecting current retailers and residents; and adding mixed-use buildings. Other smaller cities like Los Gatos, Campbell, Mountain View and Palo Alto have benefitted economically, environmentally and aesthetically from enriching their downtown's past and restoring or refurbishing their historic buildings.

According to Ondrasek and Dunham's Op-ed article in the San Jose Mercury, June 27, 2017, "The time is perfect to right this wrong: to reclaim Santa Clara's downtown and bring the city's heart back to its original glory." Here's hoping they are successful.

Recognizing the Burbank Theater

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has started the application process for the Burbank Theater tower sign and main entrance to be designated as a historic landmark. The Burbank area is an unincorporated area surrounded by City of San Jose land and is under the auspices of the County. Supervisor Ken Yeager thinks not only the tower sign and main entrance deserve to be designated but that the entire theater is worthy and could serve as a much needed community resource if preserved and rehabilitated. The theater, built in 1949, is a wonderful example of the Art Deco style of design but has suffered from years of neglect and abuse. The front exterior lobby takes one back to the 1920s and 1930s with its reds and greens in geometric shapes. Kudos go to Ken Yeager and the Board of Supervisors for bringing hope in saving and restoring this interesting building from our past.



Entrance to the historic Burbank Theater in 2009.

Happenings Around Town

Time Deli Closed

As of July 10th, the Time Deli, with its iconic neon sign and clock, has closed. The landmark sign was featured in our recent book, “The San Jose Signs Project, A Guide to the Vintage Signage of San Jose.” PAC*SJ is concerned for the sign’s future.

The Burbank neighborhood Deli on Bascom Avenue near W. San Carlos, was in business for 67 years! Owner Donald Bergh was forced to close because of the notorious legal consortium who files thousands of lawsuits for alleged ADA (Americans with Disability Act) violations, often for minute infractions that are costly to fix.

In 1950, Sam Carlino and five brothers opened the store as Time Market. Donald Bergh purchased the Deli in 2008. Many long-time, loyal customers are disappointed the Deli has closed. Bergh will be operating a food truck that will serve the Deli’s popular garlic Tri-trip sandwiches and famous potato salad. Visit his facebook page for the schedule. We heard that Breakfast Burritos will be served starting at 7 am at 898 Lincoln Ave. in San Jose.



Time Deli, a day after closure, July 11.

New Business in Historic Building

The Enoteca La Storia at the Little Italy location has been years in the making and the District is excited to see this Historic Italian Bakery building completely transformed as they opened on September 5th with a 5,000 square foot Pizzeria and Wine Bar at 320 W. St. John Street in San Jose. This has been a huge undertaking by Property owner Swenson Development & Construction and proprietors Michael Guerra and Joe Cannastraci. Little Italy is grateful for their dedication towards enlarging this neighborhood and transforming this historic landmark building into an anchor tenant in the Italian Business District. Thanks to Bill Ryan and Case Swenson from Swenson Development and Mike Guerra and Joe Cannastraci, who also operate their other location at 416 North Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos, for making this happen. To check on the hours and menu for Enoteca visit their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/elsdowntown/.

Stonelight Tile Moves

Stonelight Tile Inc. has had to move out of its building at 609 S. 1st Street. You may remember that PAC*SJ had a Members Only Event there several years ago where we admired the unique decorative tiles on display and tried our hand at adding glaze to a tile. The building is a Wolfe & Higgins commercial structure.

Stonelight Tile has moved to the Alviso area and PAC*SJ wishes them great success.

(Happenings cont'd p. 9)

Willow Glen Trestle Update

The City of San Jose has requested a redetermination of the Willow Glen Trestle's landmark status, as concluded by the California State Historical Resources Commission back in May of this year.

The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle has received a letter from the California State Office of Historic Preservation, announcing the date for its next regular meeting in Sacramento on October 27, 2017, when the question of redetermination will be addressed. At that time, the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) shall hear comments and receive information regarding the criteria for granting the request for redetermination and whether the criteria have been met pursuant to Title 14, CCR, Section 4857.

It is important to have as many testimonials as possible against the redetermination and in favor of saving the Trestle. Written comments should be sent to William Burg, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, PO Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 04296-0001 or email your letter to William Burg at:

William.Burg@parks.ca.gov. Written comments should be received 15 days before the meeting, which is Oct. 12. Interested parties are encouraged to attend the (SHRC) meeting and present oral testimony. The meeting will be held at the State Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, beginning at 9 AM.

The City of San Jose is not giving up on this travesty of historic preservation. Not only are they sometimes insensitive to our local historic resources, but they have dug in their heels on the Trestle's existence to justify purchasing a steel bridge at the beginning of the process, before allowing for full community review and comment.

The primary danger of this whole mess, besides the threat of losing the Trestle, is that the City of San Jose should not arbitrarily be allowed to decide a structure is not historic and just tear it down. This sets a dangerous precedent for all our local historic resources. ☞

Happenings (Cont'd)

Retrodome Finds a New Home

In July, the Retro Dome team, the Guggenheim Entertainment Company who occupied the Century 25 Theatre and then briefly the Century 21 Theatre, have announced they will partner with Camera 3 Entertainment and other local arts organizations to begin a reimagining of the Downtown theater, Camera 3. They plan to offer live professional musical theatre, interactive movie events, and creative and performing arts education. The venue will offer exciting entertainment six days a week. Stay tuned for the launch of their new website and grand opening. Century 21, on Winchester Boulevard, is still standing and vacant. Preservationists are monitoring the site and still have hope that the dome could be renovated, transforming it into a unique venue.

Montgomery Hotel Exhibits History

The General Manager of the former Montgomery Hotel (now Four Points by Sheraton) has installed a video monitor to highlight the history of the hotel from the beginning, through the amazing move of the building 187 feet south in 2000, and then to the present. The Classical Revival building was built in 1911, designed by William Binder, and built by C.T. Montgomery. Plans are proposed to add a 21-story tower on the north side immediately adjacent to the California State landmark structure. ☞



ON THE RADAR



27 S. First Street

The design plans for the proposed project site of the former Woolworth building at 27 S. First Street, were presented at the Historic Landmarks Commission's Design Review Committee meeting on August 16th.

The proposed project is required to be compatible with the Downtown Commercial National Register Historic District and the Bank of America building, a city landmark, across the street from the proposed site. Plans include the construction of a 22-story mixed use tower with residential units, commercial and office space on the 0.57 acre site.

Mel Cotton Neon Sign

The Mel Cotton's historic neon sign from 1266 W. San Carlos Street was moved to History San Jose. Preservationists hope a collection of local historic neon signs might eventually be on exhibit.

Hayes Mansion

The City of San Jose re-issued a bid solicitation for the purchase of the Hayes Mansion in June. The minimum bid is \$36 million, which will cover all of the property's debts. There has been much interest in the property so the bid deadline was extended to August 31st to ensure all interested parties have enough time to submit a bid. The Office of Economic Development, the Department of Finance and the City Attorney's Office are reviewing and analyzing the bids, conducting interviews and if appropriate will bring forward a proposal for the sale of the Hayes Mansion to the City Council for review and approval.

Greater Gardner Area

An updated survey report for the Greater Gardner Area will soon be finalized and the nomination and designation of this area as a Conservation Area will then be considered and voted upon. Residents have worked on this proposal for 30 years and are eager for a final decision. The Historic Landmarks Commission and PAC*SJ agree that this area is an excellent candidate for a Conservation Area designation..

The proposed Greater Gardner Area has a high concentration of historic residences, almost 80%, and meets the criteria for a neighborhood to convey a sense of cohesiveness through design, architecture, setting, materials or natural features and history.

The study area for the Greater Gardner Neighborhood Survey is located from Interstate 280 on the north, Guadalupe Expressway to the east, Willow Street to the south and Bird Avenue to the west. A triangular shaped neighborhood, Gregory Plaza, west of Bird Avenue is also included in the survey.

Designating a defined area as a Conservation Area ensures the preservation of the historic nature of the neighborhood and reduces the possibility of altering historic homes that would not be consistent with the neighborhood character.

The greater Gardner Area would join six other Conservation Areas in San Jose along with nine Historic Districts.

Notable Quotable

"As our disastrous national experiment with "Urban Renewal" a half-century ago should make clear, demolishing existing urban neighborhoods is a giant step in the wrong direction. Instead, let's make better use of the buildings and spaces we have to fashion cities that are affordable, diverse, exciting, and inviting for everyone."

— "Density Without Demolition," The Atlantic, CityLab, by Stephanie Meeks, June 11, 2017 (Stephanie Meeks is president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.)



PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—

- ➔Montgomery Hotel
- ➔Scheller House/SJSU
- ➔Grave's House
- ➔St. James Park
- ➔Dancing Pig Neon Sign
- ➔Agnews Developmental Center

Home Tour Sponsors—Thank You!!

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The Core Companies

◀ RUBY SPONSORS ▶

Janet Akin San Jose City Councilmember Donald Rocha Anonymous

◀ PLATINUM SPONSORS ▶

Patt Curia	Curtis Horticulture	Shanna Desai	The Faris-Taylor Team
Gayle Frank	Brian & Nina Grayson SWENSON	Heritage Bank Krista Van Laan	The Schoennauer Co.

◀ GOLD SPONSORS ▶

Archives & Architecture	Darryl Boyd & Pamela Ryalls-Boyd	
San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo	The Luthard Family	
Joe & Celeste Melehan	Marilyn Messina	
San Jose City Councilmember Raul Peralez	Lisa Ruder	
Carl & Marianne Salas	Lisa Wiseman	Sally & Arthur Zarnowitz

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Dan & Helen Chapman Jim Thomas & Gratia Rankin for Radio KKUP 91.5 FM

◀ OUR PARTNERS ▶

Antiques Colony	Catered Too!
J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines	Willow Glen Home & Garden

Some of the many 2017 Home Tour Docents



Hilliguus Faber and Barbara Klein



Danita Fleck & John Florio



Lary Gancasz & Connie Wai



Sara Jacobsen & Art Carroll



*Beth
Wyman,
Edith
Espinola,
Sylvia
Carroll &
Sharon
Riehle*

(Cont'd p. 13)

Home Tour Docents (Cont'd)



Stella Phua & Kim McAfee



Susan Walker

Photos: Gayle Frank

PAC*SJ thanks all our docents and volunteers for the Wolfe & Higgins Home Tour. We are sorry we don't have enough room to print all your photos. Here is a list of the docents and all other volunteers: Debbie Anderson, Pete Anderson, Deborah Arant, Eleanor Berry, Bob Beste, Sally Beste, Joan Bohnett, Darryl Boyd, Lynne Brown, Sara Bruce, Art Carroll, Sylvia Carroll, Patt Curia, Una Daly, Nancy Derham, Robert Derham, Kathleen Derham, Shanna Desai, Ryan Dietzen, Marilyn Dion, Edith Espinola, Judy Everett, Hilleguus Faber, Kevin Fernandes, Bev Fitzwater, Jim Fitzwater, Danita Fleck, Connie Foley, Luba Fox, Bill Francis, Gayle Frank, Gigi Frolli, John Frolli, Larry Gancasz, Barbara Goldstein, Brian Grayson, Nina Grayson, Cici Green, Patrice Greene-Haggerty, Ron Hagen, Sue Harper, Julia Howlett, Jackie Hughes, Sara Jacobsen, Andrea Johnson, C.Z. King, Barbara Klein, Gloria Knapel, Ron Knapel, Rebecca Kohn,

Chloe Leinwand, Megan Leney, John Lorio, Bruce Lunt, Rev. Sylvia Karuna Lunt, André Luthard, Ron Maeder, Jeannie Mahan, Kim McAfee, Tricia McGuirk, Lyle Meriweather, Marilyn Messina, John Mitchell, Robb Moore, Reshard Mostafi, Richard Nieset, Genie Palmer, Stella Phua, Rene Quetulio, Parul Rai, Gratia Rankin, Sharon Riehle, Lisa Ruder, Sandra Soellner, Christy Stevens, Sandy Swirsky, Mary Talanay, Judy Tucker, Krista Van Laan, Marcy Van Laan, Don Wagner, Connie Wai, Susan Walker, Carrie Washburn, Liz Winslow, Greg Winslow, and Beth Wyman.

Thank you all for a job well done! ☞

Landmarks Commission Positions Filled

The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) now has a full membership of seven Commissioners: Edward Saum—Chair, Joshua Marcotte—Vice Chair, Harriett Arnold, Melissa Daniels, Eric Hirst, Anthony Raynsford and most recently Steve Polcyn.

Additionally, Ed Saum, Steve Polcyn and Anthony Raynsford were elected to the HLC Design Review Subcommittee. The next Commission meeting will be held on October 4th at City Hall. ☞

PAC*SJ 2017 Calendar

- Sep 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Oct 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Nov 12** **Sunday, PAC*SJ Fall Boutique & Holiday Cheer, 1 PM—6 PM, 209 S. 14th St.**
- Nov 20** Monday, PAC*SJ Combined Annual Meeting & Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM.
History San Jose, Pasetta House.

PAC*SJ Fall Boutique—Save the Date

You are invited to the PAC*SJ Fall Boutique where Christmas ornaments and decor, gifts and holiday cheer will be for sale at a historic craftsman home in Naglee Park, belonging to one of PAC*SJ's Board Members. Complimentary wine will be served.

Save the Date!! Nov. 12th, Sunday from 1 PM—6 PM at 209 S. 14th St.

If you have unused holiday ornaments you would like to donate,
contact Patt Curia at Donations@preservation.org.

Painting Your House?

If you are interested in exterior house colors or need ideas for your vintage home, here is a good website with excellent examples of color combinations on various styles of houses.

The before and after photos are fun to see.
www.oldhouseguy.com/exterior-paint-colors/

History San Jose Coming Events

Celebrate the founding of San Jose at the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House on

Saturday, Oct. 14th from 11 AM - 4 PM.

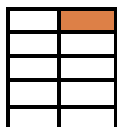
Attend the History San Jose Heritage Holiday Tea on

Saturday, Dec. 9th at 11 AM or 2 PM.

ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

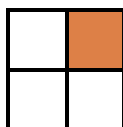
Continuity is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!



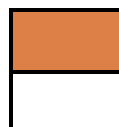
Business Card

Single issue \$50
3 issues \$120



1/4 Page

Single issue \$100
3 issues \$250



1/2 Page

Single issue \$200
3 issues \$450



Full Page

Single issue \$375
3 issues \$700



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In Memoriam—Linda Larson Boston

Linda Sue Larson entered this world on April 15, 1956, the first child for Robert “Bud” Larson and Edna Ricks Larson of Medford, Oregon. From an early age she was a take-charge person, watching over her sister Diane and brother Bobby and baby-sitting for neighborhood children.

Linda was educated in Medford, graduating from Medford High School in 1974. During a summer job as a counselor at Crater Lake in Oregon, she fell in love with the scenic beauty. Linda left Oregon for the University of Santa Clara, where she obtained her BA in English in 1978. While at Santa Clara she developed a passion for history. She became acquainted with famed historian Kevin Starr, and took classes with Clyde Arbuckle, historian for the city of San Jose.

In 1993 Linda was appointed to the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission serving a term through 1997. She was a member of History San Jose and Preservation Action Council of San Jose, where she served on the Board of Directors. Other organizations important to her included the Institute for Historical Study, the Argonauts, and the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

During college, Linda worked at Huntford Printing where she became acquainted with Robert Burrill, a local photography instructor. In 1982, Burrill introduced Linda to David Boston, a college friend and native of San Jose. During their 10 year courtship, Linda and David attended various historical functions, and Clyde’s classes. David soon began to share Linda’s passion for history, particularly California and Santa Clara Valley history. She was a very serious and often ferocious researcher.



Linda Larson Boston
April 15, 1956—May 12, 2017

After college, Linda began work at TIW Systems. The company turned into Vertex RSI, then was absorbed into General Dynamics. Her 33-year career was preparing meticulous manuals for operating intricate satellite technology. She also published local history booklets on the José Theatre, Saint James Park, and the San Jose Light Tower.

Linda and David were married on December 14, 1992, the start of a twenty-four and a half year voyage together. About ten years ago, Linda was diagnosed with breast cancer. She began a grueling

series of treatments, and appeared to have won the battle until an untreatable form returned, and with further treatments, it began to take a toll on her energy. On May 6, 2017, Linda fell off the porch at their home, seriously injuring her left knee and left arm. While in the hospital, tests revealed damage to her knee, and that the cancer was attacking her body. At the same time, their beloved dog Baby died and she learned her loving father had suddenly passed away. After a brief period of improvement, David was told that she probably had only weeks, not months, to live.

Linda’s sister Diane came to visit with her daughters, Sarah and Emily, and Linda’s grandniece, 5 months old Ellie. Their moments of a joyful reunion turned to sadness when Linda passed away in the afternoon of May 12, 2017 with family at her side. Following her wishes, her ashes will be scattered on a little hill beyond the lodge at Crater Lake, Oregon—a place of beauty that will always be important to David. ❧

Lovingly by, Bonnie Bamburg and David Boston

One in a Million By Ron Hagen

I have promised to write this saga for some time now. It involves an activity that all of us have participated in at some time or another. In fact, some of us have made a hobby of it. Yes, Garage Sales! This 'One in a Million' tale involves specifically the fabled PAC*SJ sales held at Patt Curia's home and surrounding neighbors in Naglee Park several times a year. Somehow I managed to work myself up to her "A list" of yard sale helpers. Setting up these sales take a lot of dedicated work, and equally important, restoring Patt's porch, driveway and sidewalk back to their intended purpose. Then, Patt's garage must be dealt with because it houses the remaining unsold treasures for the next sale, along with treasures from previous sales which didn't make it into the light of day.

So here is where my "A list" classification comes into play. Once a year or so, the treasures in Patt's garage which keep getting pushed further to the back, need to be sorted through and kept separate from the Curia family treasures. I was asked to tackle this job. While sorting through a box of dusty, old picture frames which I had determined were not Curia heirlooms, I spotted an old frame with broken glass that contained a document whose intricate style looked familiar. I didn't have my reading glasses, so I asked Patt what the tiny print in the lower corner of the document read.



1875 Baptismal certificate printed in St. Louis, MO.

(Photos: Ron Hagen)

She replied, "L. Gast lith. St. Louis." This was a baptismal certificate dated 1875, from a German Evangelical Church in Illinois.



Lithograph by Leopold Gast, a relative of Ron Hagen

Leopold Gast was my grandmother's great grandfather who emigrated from Germany in 1854, settling in St. Louis where he opened a lithography business using stones he had brought as baggage from Germany. This baptismal certificate was one of many elaborately engraved religious forms Leopold Gast's firm printed in German, English or Norwegian. My grandmother's baptismal certificate is on the identical form and that's why it caught my eye. So, what are the chances? A million to one? Greater?? Needless to say, I never miss a PAC*SJ Garage Sale! You never know what you might find. ☞

"Wolfe & Higgins: Master Architects of the Spanish Revival"

By Krista Van Laan

Wolfe & Higgins played a major role in establishing the architectural landscape of Northern California, and San Jose in particular. This book tells their story and has beautiful photos of their many homes and buildings.

Available at www.nreverse.com for \$39.95.

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.

HL92-72; Sperry Flour Company, 30 N. Third Street

This city landmark building was constructed in 1903 for the Sperry Flour Company. Wolfe & McKenzie designed the Mission Revival, rectangular industrial building.

There are five pilasters across the façade, each reported to have cast iron bases imprinted with 'Caton's Foundry Machine Co.' These pilasters divide the front into four equal spaces (bays). Each end bay has a steep mansard form roof with neoclassical fascia and nine brackets underneath. Years after, the windows were filled in with lava rock, but then removed later. The far north bay has an ornate wrought iron grill gate across an opening large enough for a vehicle to enter. The other three bays have arched windows and doors with faux keystone ornamentation.



*Early 20th century photo of Sperry Flour Co. (Date and photographer unknown.
(Photos on this page courtesy of History San Jose)*

Originally this N. Third Street site housed the Moody's Mill that was re-located here by Ransom G. Moody in 1858. Moody's Mill was one of the first mills in San Jose, located on the banks of Coyote Creek near Empire Street in 1854, where water from an artesian well was used for powering the machinery. Once the business moved to Third Street, steam powered the mill machinery. A warehouse sat to the rear facing Fourth Street. Moody's three sons took over their father's business and eventually one of the brothers, David B. Moody, managed the facility himself.

Then, Central Milling Company merged with Moody Mills (also referenced as San Jose City Mill) in 1886 by forming a consortium of California mills.

By 1892, Sperry Flour Company incorporated and bought out Central Milling Company. Flour was milled here in San Jose until 1898 since Santa Clara Valley replaced grain crops for orchards of fruit. The building then served as a flour and grain distribution center for five nearby counties until 1925. Manager W. G. Alexander's excellent business practices enabled the company to grow throughout the State and nearby states.

(Cont'd p. 19)



Sperry Flour Co. on Third St. in 1897 before present building was built. (From 1897 Souvenir Booklet)

City Landmarks (Cont'd)

Early on, burr stones were replaced with the roller process, extracting whiter, finer flour from the grain with impurities carefully removed. The "modern and model" mill had an excellent reputation, exporting its flour in large quantities, up to ten thousand barrels in one shipment, to Central America, Chile, China, Japan, Mexico and the Sandwich Island as reported in the souvenir booklet, "1897 Santa Clara County, California, 16th International Convention.

In a 1902 Evening News article (10/2/1902), the Sperry Flour Company was said to own ten flour mills in California with "one of the largest and most important branch of the industry in San Jose."

Sperry Flour Co. was described in a 1905 article (4/9/1905, San Jose Mercury Herald) that the company included mills in Stockton, the Golden Gate Mills of San Francisco, The Pioneer Mills at Sacramento, the Buckeye Mills at Marysville, and mills in Salinas, San Jose, Fresno, Los Angeles and Tacoma.

Sperry was considered the "best equipped in the State" with the "most modern machines." Further success was attributed to placing their mills near the best wheat centers in the State of California. The Drifted Snow flour was their leading brand among homemakers and businesses. Other Sperry products included Capitol Mills Table Cereals, buckwheat, rolled oats, barley and all kinds of grain and feeds, always of the best quality. (Cont'd p. 20)

THE DEPENDABILITY
THE UNIFORMITY
OF
Sperry
DRIFTED SNOW
Flour
Is Demonstrated Daily by
MRS. KATE VAUGHN
AT THE
MERCURY HERALD COOKING SCHOOL
The International Jury of Awards at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, in giving the Grand Prize to Sperry Flour, confirmed the judgment of the housewives of the Pacific Coast, where Sperry Flour has been the choice for over 60 years.
Use Sperry Flour in your home and note the ease with which you will produce good things to eat. Note the delight of the family at meal time—all due to the goodness, the absolute uniformity of Sperry Flour.
The Sperry Cook Book will aid you in your daily cooking. Send a two cent stamp and this will be mailed to you.
SPERRY FLOUR CO.
San Jose, Calif.
SPERRY FLOUR
GRAND PRIZE-HIGHEST AWARD-PANAMA PACIFIC EXPOSITION 1915



*Above, May 1,
1915 ad in
the San Jose
Mercury Herald.*

*Left, Sperry Flour
Building in 2009.*

*(Courtesy of History
San Jose. Photographer
unknown.)*

City Landmarks (Cont'd)

At the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, Sperry's Drifted Snow Flour won the Grand Prize, the highest possible award, along with a medal of honor and 12 gold medals for their many other products.

As described in an August 30, 1917 article in the San Jose Mercury Herald, the Sperry Company made improvements to their N. Third Street building, "making the establishment one of the prettiest in the city." The façade was finished in a white cement mixed with pure white Monterey sand and at the top center was placed the picturesque trademark of the company in colored mosaic, a feature seldom found on commercial warehouses." The article goes on to say that behind the front offices, the rear



Looking north, the Sperry Building in July, 2017.

(Photos this page: Gayle Frank)

warehouse was "kept spotlessly white, and contained great rows of piled sacks of flour."

An auto sales and repair shop occupied the building beginning in the late 1920s. By 1989, a welding shop occupied the building.

In 1996, alterations to the building converted it into office space and an art gallery. The existing center garage door and stud wall were replaced with a plate glass window flanked by a pair of solid wood doors. The windows in the adjacent bays were set in arched recesses with two solid wood doors and awnings added above.

This year, the historic Sperry building has been transformed yet again into a

(Cont'd p. 21)



Mosaic logo added to Sperry Building in 1917.

City Landmarks (Cont'd)



*Sperry Building
in July, 2017
looking south.
Note the grill
work on the
first bay.*

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

fitness center, WESTCA Lifestyle Gym, with all modern training equipment, showers, and more. The large open-space interior is nicely painted with white exposed beams overhead, offering a view of the building's historic construction. It's good to see the building's adaptive re-use and that it is well taken care of.

Sources:

- *Historic Resources Inventory Form* (Ref. #76), Glory Anne Laffey, 1/1/92.
- *Santa Clara County, California, 16th International Convention, San Francisco, Souvenir Booklet*, 7/12/1897, pg 24.
- *San Jose Evening News & San Jose Mercury Herald*, dates noted in article.
- *Pen Pictures From The Garden of the World or Santa Clara County, California, Illustrated*. - Edited by H. S. Foote, 1888. p. 308 & 503.

Sperry Building in 2012.

*(Photo:
David Sawyer,
on flicker)*





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Coyote Meadows Walking Tour

Join Larry Ames on a walking tour of "Coyote Meadows," including an under-and-over exploration of the Coyote Creek Trestle – Willow Glen Trestle's slightly bigger brother.

Get the lay of the land including the landfill sites, trail connections, zones with types of allowable uses and constraints. Traverse the Five Wounds Trail and learn about its history. Circle around the top of the old landfill. Lots to see, and plenty of people to meet.

The tour will start at 10:30 AM and end at 12 PM. The meeting point will be at Togo's Parking Lot, 779 Story Road in San Jose. For more info and to RSVP, go to <http://coyotemeadowssj.org/>.

The Coyote Meadows Coalition is comprised of groups and individuals focused on opening up and activating for parkland a 50-acre city-owned parcel along Coyote Creek between Story Road and Hwy 280. The Coyote Creek Trail runs along the western edge of the area and the future Five Wounds Trail will run along its eastern edge.

PAC*SJ Membership Application

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Telephone(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

*Members who do not provide email addresses cannot receive timely notices of news, announcements and events. PAC*SJ will not release your contact details to others without your consent.*

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, *Signposts Revisited*, by Pat Loomis or the Bay Area Mid-CenturyModern playing cards.

Please check if you would like to receive
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or both book & deck of cards at the \$250 level.

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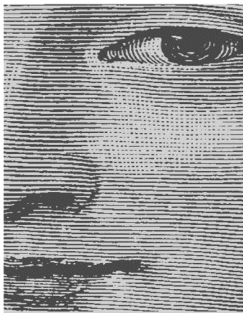
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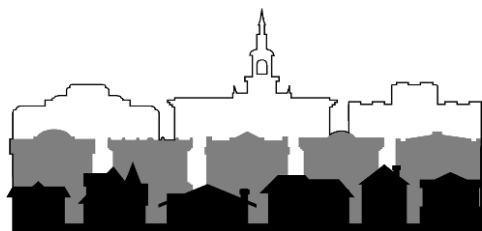
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The members of the Board of Directors are the core of PAC*SJ. They formulate the overall strategy, secure PAC*SJ's financial stability, and contribute their ideas, expertise and resources to make San Jose a better place. If you might be interested in serving on a committee, attending a monthly Board meeting and events, and promoting historic preservation to the general public and city officials, why not go to www.preservation.org to review the Board member expectations. If this sounds like a good fit, email your application to info@preservation.org. We will contact you to discuss the next steps.



Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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Nov. 12th; 1—6 PM

209 S. 14th St.

Join Today or Renew Now!



CONTINUITY

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.

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