



MONTEZUMA MOUNTAIN RANCH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

by Ellen Garboske

INSIDE:

- SCHOOLHOUSE ADDITION TO HMSJ PAGE 2
- PACSJ BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD PAGE 3
- JOSE/MONTGOMERY WAITING
- VOLUNTEERS FOR PACSJ'S T'N'T BOOTH
- SCHELLER HOUSE UPDATE PAGE 5
- CITY HALL — MOVIN' AND SHAKIN' PAGES 6 & 7
- MINING MUSEUM OPENS PAGE 8
- THIRD STREET FIESTA
- FIRST UNITARIAN TO REOPEN SANCTUARY PAGE 9
- WE LOVE A MYSTERY PAGE 10
- ZETTERQUIST APPOINTED
- LIVING HISTORY DAYS ON THE ALAMEDA PAGE 11

Demolition Threatened For Oldest Structure

The Montezuma Mountain Ranch School for Boys was established high in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1911. This highly regarded school became the alma mater for many sons of Santa Clara Valley residents, and boys from all over the nation, before it was closed in 1955. The campus was purchased by the Sisters of Presentation, used as a novitiate until 1970, and then was adapted by the Sisters for use as a retreat and educational facility. At one time the site contained 36 structures, including five buildings moved from the nearby Tevis ranch when the school was opened in 1911. Only two of these five original buildings remain. Referred to as the Oriental Building, one structure served originally as the administration building, and is thought to have been designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan. The Sisters of Presentation have applied to the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission for permission to hold a controlled burn, supposedly to provide structure fire practice for the fire depart-

ment, to demolish this historic structure. PACSJ's mission is to preserve architectural, historical and cultural resources in the Greater San Jose area, therefore we urge Montezuma alumni, preservationists and the general public to contact their County Supervisor requesting that further research be conducted into the origins of the Oriental building, and that consideration be given to preserving and restoring this important historic resource.

A Brief History of the Montezuma School

When Ira G. Hoitt retired from the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1891, he established a home school for boys in Burlingame. The Hoitt Private School moved to the former Atherton property near Menlo Park in 1898 where it remained until after the founder's death in 1904.

See *MONTEZUMA* on page 4



Montezuma Mountain Ranch School for Boys

WANTED! NEWSLETTER EDITOR — SEE PAGE 3

From the President

by André Luthard

My Summer Vacation!

For three weeks in June, my family and I took a long anticipated vacation to Italy and Switzerland. Aside from the challenge of traveling overseas with an almost three year old being potty trained, this trip reinforced my interest in architecture and historic preservation!

It is so incredible to find that a church or town hall dating back hundreds of years could be found in the smallest of villages. Farm houses built in the 16 or 1700s still being used today. Multi-story apartments and commercial buildings with wonderful exteriors and beautiful ornamentation of brick, wood or stone. Historically significant buildings or simply old ones are treated with respect and appreciation, and integrated into the fabric of the built environment. These buildings contribute to the pedestrian friendly feeling of many small towns and cities alike. Even though our architecture is "recent" by European standards, our older buildings are important not only to provide a link to our heritage, but also to ensure lasting development of our cities in the future.

Board of Directors Retreat

Our group of 19 directors of PACSJ will be spending a Saturday at the end of August brainstorming regarding the challenges and future of our organization. Led by a professional outside facilitator, we will be discussing basic things like revisiting the mission of PACSJ, the direction or evolution of our organization, as well as trying to provide some focus on issues like how to tap into our membership for assistance and if we should strive to hire a part or full-time staff person. If you have concerns that you would like addressed or input to give to the board or myself, please don't hesitate to call me directly at 408-287-2823.



Volunteers in front of the Santa Ana School

SCHOOLHOUSE LATEST ADDITION TO SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

With the roof in place and work moving forward on the interior, a 127-year old one-room schoolhouse is nearing completion of restoration on the grounds of the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelley Park. Originally located in Hollister, the Santa Ana School was moved to the museum grounds two years ago. Restoration to date has been done mostly by volunteers. Under the leadership of the San Jose State Alumni Association funds were raised to restore the building and to provide 1890s period furnishings. Visiting school children will experience a typical school day as children did in the 1890s. The one-room schoolhouse will be dedicated on the museum grounds Saturday, September 26, in an all-day public celebration.

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Layout: Joan Shomler

Please submit your comments and suggestions to Preservation Action Council of San Jose, CA 95109

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Watchdog Report

The doggies have taken to the hills and are running around the old *Montezuma School for Boys*. The site is currently owned by a religious order, the **Presentation Sisters**, who want to demolish one of its most interesting structures. Built in an "oriental" style, the building is thought to have been the work of architect Julia Morgan. A little more digging will tell.

I was sniffin' around Third Street recently and my sensitive nose ended up at the old *Sperry Flour Building* at 22 North Third Street. This mission style warehouse, designed by the famed architectural firm of Wolfe & McKenzie in 1903, is a great place to dig around. Now I'd checked this out before and knew the Works Gallery operates out of this building, but there was something different about it. I put my head back and was all set to howl up a storm when WHOOF! I spotted the Sperry Flour logo, with the company name picked out in small mosaic tiles and a bungalow house outlined behind the lettering! Brought back memories of my great granddoggie telling me about this wonderful logo which some blockhead covered up with paint many years ago! Now someone had removed the paint and restored this wonderful piece of urban decoration. Occasionally you two-legged creatures do something right!

Doggies love to dig, turning up all sorts of moldie oldies. The planned *City Hall* threatens two of San Jose oldest neighborhoods and many of its earliest buildings. The doggies favorite is the old *Dorchester Hotel* at the corner of 7th and San Fernando. Built by Z.O. Field for a packing house president, it has a fine row of palm trees along the 7th Street side. Love those trees!



WANTED! NEWSLETTER EDITOR

PAC SJ is looking for someone to take on the responsibility as editor of this newsletter, *CONTINUITY*. Published quarterly, production of the newsletter is a job which can be done at home and a great way to support preservation of our historic assets. Must have computer, job is easiest if editor has e-mail for receiving material already typed from contributors. Involves producing finished copy for printer, deliver to printer, pick up of printed newsletter, and preparing for bulk mailing. Phone Ellen Garboske at (408) 446-5474 for more information or if you are interested in performing this important task.



Kitty Monahan confers with Indian Pony companion, Sonny Six Feathers

PAC SJ BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

An award of excellence was presented to Kitty Monahan on July 18, 1998 by the National Association of County Parks and Recreation. Kitty received the award during the National Association of Counties conference in Portland, Oregon, for recognition of outstanding accomplishment in the field of Parks and Recreation. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, under the direction of Paul Romero, nominated Kitty for this annual volunteer award for her many years of outstanding volunteer service in the county. A former commissioner on both the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission, Kitty also was instrumental in forming a volunteer program for the Parks Department. She is also a founder of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association and established the park's interest in the New Almaden Mercury Mining Museum, which she operated on a volunteer basis for 18 years. Kitty currently serves on PAC SJ's Board of Directors. Way to go, Kitty!

Hoitt's associate, Professor W.J. Meredith, became proprietor and, desiring to identify the school with the educational community, moved the Hoitt School to a location adjacent to Stanford University where it remained until 1911. Ernest Andrews Rogers, a disenchanted teacher, met with Headmaster William Meredith and in the following discussion discovered a similar philosophy of education, i.e., the failures of the modern educational system. Rogers persuaded his father to purchase the former Garrett Ranch, 70-acres off Bear Creek Road in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Rogers and Meredith established the Montezuma Mountain Ranch For Boys. The name Montezuma came from the long-established school district where the property was located, not from the Aztec emperor. Classes began in the spring of 1911, with the younger boys bunking in the old farmhouse and the older housed in tents. Classes and activities took place out of doors. To solve the problem of housing, Rogers purchased five buildings from Dr. Harry Tevis' nearby estate. True to Roger's philosophy of knowing how to work as well as study, the boys hitched a team of horses to each building and dragged them 2-1/2 miles down the hill. The barn became the dining hall, the Oriental-style building was the administration building, and the others served as housing.

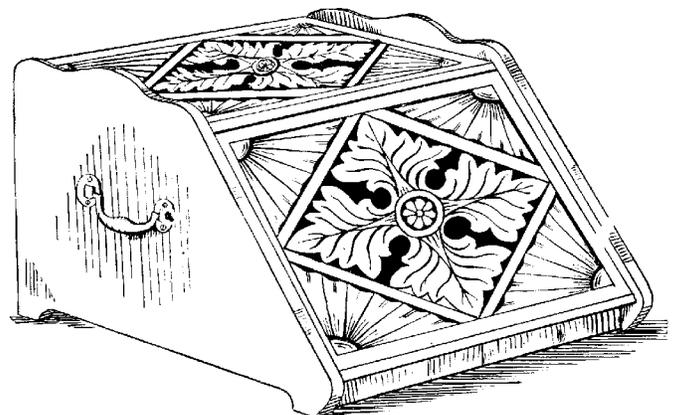
In addition to construction, the students cared for horses, cows and chickens; tended the dairy; maintained the dormitories and grounds; and canned the excess fruit from the orchard. Upperclassmen got lessons in economics by purchasing other food and supplies from Los Gatos merchants. In the early primitive years the boys lived mostly outside much like pioneers or explorers. They became familiar with the woods and streams, learned to fish and spent time hiking and camping, in addition to their studies. Some students came from very prominent families, but many were from families of more modest means. Both students and parents seemed to be very pleased with the school and its philosophy of work, study and play.

As the school began to grow and prosper, students learned self-government. Each term they elected a mayor and commissioners during lively campaigns. The boys ran the bank, store, library, heating and lighting systems, drove the teams, repaired the buildings, made changes in the government and conferred with faculty about changes to curriculum and discipline. In 1934 E.A. Rogers met with delegates from seven high schools and the organization Junior Statesmen of America was born. Students were taught about city, county, state and national governments by actually voting and holding office in a young people's replica of these governments. Roger's ideals quickly caught on and soon the program spread to all California's high schools, and later throughout the nation. Within three

years there were 8000 members, and it has continued to grow up to the present time.

Montezuma students built their own cottages, dormitories and gym. Engineering, woodshop, animal husbandry and even aviation became part of the study program. There was a hospital, post office, laundry, 35-horse stables, football field and track. Discipline demerits were run off around a lake, which was also used for kayaking and canoeing. It was a popular school for boys, with plenty of opportunity for education mixed with work and recreation. Graduation ceremonies were held in 1955 for the last time in the Redwood Grove above the school.

From the beginning enrollment of about a dozen boys, by the 1920s there averaged 150 students each term and the campus had grown to 250 acres. At its peak there were 36 structures, with 16 remaining today. Of the 16 remaining buildings, the Oriental Building is the most historic. It is of the early Arts and Crafts period with a uniquely styled oriental roof and dormers. It has a wrap-around porch with board and batten siding. The interior is an excellent representation of the Arts and Crafts style. Research is being done to try to determine when it was built for Dr. Tevis, and if Julia Morgan was the architect. This early structure, a part of the educational history of our county, is worthy of preservation.



Coal box

JOSE THEATRE/MONTGOMERY HOTEL ISSUE WAITING IN THE WINGS!

At this time our task force reports that there are no recent actions to report on the Jose Theatre or Montgomery Hotel preservation projects. As our members are aware, legal action has been filed by PACSJ to prevent the demolition of these two historic structures. At this point, we are waiting for notice of the hearing date which will most likely take place in October or November. Members will be notified when the date is set. In the meantime, we'd like to thank all of those who have so generously contributed to our legal fund. We are continuing to raise much-needed funds to cover our legal costs. If you can help, please send your tax-deductible contribution check to PACSJ, P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA 95109-2287, with notation "Legal Fund."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PACSJ'S TAPESTRY 'N TALENT BOOTH

The annual Tapestry in Talent Annual Festival of the Arts will be held in downtown San Jose on September 5th-7th, 1998. This is an exciting and enjoyable event and PACSJ's booth is always popular with the public, brings in new members, and educates the public about our efforts to save historically important structures. We need your help with staffing our booth or guiding tours. Please help by committing a few hours for preservation. Contact Ellen Garboske at (408) 446-5474 or leave your name and number (clearly, please) on the machine. She promises to get back to you!

SCHELLER HOUSE UPDATE

The Scheller House still sits unattended on the San Jose State campus although the vice-president for facilities, Alan Freeman, is telling everyone that the university plans to begin construction at any time. Behind the scenes the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has sent a letter to the University, quietly pointing out that SJSU has still not fulfilled their CEQA requirements.

It would be embarrassing if the university had to be taken into court once again for ignoring both a prevailing court order and state regulations. Various members of the Preservation Action Council board have been meeting informally with university administration for several months, but despite repeated reassurances, the university facilities office has yet to consult with SHPO.

The sad and amusing irony is that the Scheller House could have been legally demolished years ago if the university had only followed proper procedures. By refusing to file two little pieces of paper with the state, an inventory form and a request to demolish, the university has exposed themselves to ongoing litigation.

Even more of an embarrassment is the obvious situation that a university that offers degrees in history, in environmental studies and in fine arts cannot provide either leadership or scholarship in these fields where the Scheller House is concerned.

Editors note: the above image was taken from PACSJ's web



Scheller House
drawing by Carole Rast

site for the Spring 1996 issue of *CONTINUITY*. If you haven't visited our web site, now is the time, <http://www.preservation.org>. Some photo's in this issue of *CONTINUITY* can now be seen on the site in color.



26 — 28 South Fifth Street

CITY HALL — MOVIN’ AND SHAKIN’

By April Halberstadt

The Redevelopment Agency’s plans for a new City Hall to be built on Santa Clara Street between Fifth and Seventh continue to move right along. Although attorney and former mayor Al Ruffo has filed suit to stop the relocation, the Redevelopment Agency is proceeding with their construction plans at a comfortable clip.



32 — 36 South Fifth Street



88 South Sixth Street

At the present time most of the parcels that make up the footprint of the building have already been assembled, the list of potential project architects has been narrowed down to five and the consultants are hard at work on the Environmental Impact Report. The proposed structure will close Sixth Street on the south side of Santa Clara Street.

The proposed project will remove dozens of early San Jose buildings, most of them currently used as residences for San Jose State students and other low income residents. The project will impact many institutions in the surrounding area, including Horace Mann School, the senior housing at Juan XXIII Center, and the new Methodist Church planned for the corner of Fifth and Santa Clara.



72 — 80 South Fifth Street



18 South Fifth Street

Local residents joke that the project will be right next door to the Lucky grocery store, known as the Yucky Lucky. A recent Project Crackdown drug enforcement effort focused on this grocery store and several of the security guards employed by the store were arrested for dealing drugs. Some nearby folks comment that if the City really wanted to improve a blighted area, they could remove the Lucky Store.

Editor's Note: the accompanying photo's are a continuation of the photo series begun in the last issue showing homes threatened if city hall move proceeds.



New Almaden's Englishtown School Class of 1890

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department purchased the six-acre Casa Grande in December of 1997, hired a museum design firm with a grant from the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission, and opened the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum to the public on July 3, 1998. This beautiful museum, using artifacts from the Connie Perham collection and acquired historic items from the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association, will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Casa Grande's historic brick walls form the background for wonderfully enlarged photos showing the mining operation from 1845 to 1920 and New Almaden through 1976 when the County purchased 4,000 acres to form the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The Parks Department will have a staff person available at the museum during visitor hours. Docents under the sponsorship of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association will work with the staff to provide tours of the museum, the town and the Quicksilver County Park. School tours are encouraged.

NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER MINING MUSEUM OPENS



Randol Tunnel in Quicksilver Park, 1880, enlarged on Casa Grande Wall gives visitors "Walking the Rails" experience

ST. JAMES PARK SITE OF THIRD STREET FIESTA: AN URBAN OLYMPIAD

The Third Street Community Center received its tax-exempt status in April of 1998, and is headquartered in the renovated basement of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. TSCC is getting off to a quick start by organizing what looks like a fun event for the community, and a fundraiser to support their mission of (1) organizing community development projects; (2) developing community service programs, and (3) providing facilities for other community programs.

The **Third Street Fiesta: an Urban Olympiad** will be held in St. James Park and the surrounding neighborhood on September 24-26, 1998. An urban olympiad is a series of everyday competitive events that everyone knows they could do better than anyone else! Bound to produce some humorous situations. A variety of games will be featured, from a boom box derby for kids to parallel parking competition for adults. On the more serious side, historic tours around St. James Park will be conducted.

As a fundraiser, TSCC is looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor the event at various levels. Sponsors would receive a high level of recognition for supporting the Fiesta, including prominent use of their logo or name in advertisements, and tickets to all events. Organizations that add value to the event would receive booth space and recognition. You can volunteer to run Olympiad events and recruit participants to compete against other groups in the events. Contact Nancy Smith at (408) 992-0652 for information on sponsorship or participation.

A word more about TSCC: This new non-profit recently received a grant from the City of San Jose for capital improvement projects. They have begun plans to establish the Don Edwards Computer Learning Center to provide access to computer technology for low income neighbors and students. They also intend to provide a Homework Center for youth to keep children safely occupied after school, as well as support and office space for Familias Unidas de St. James. These are just three examples of ways TSCC intends to serve the community. Community members are urged to attend the Fiesta Olympiad and support their efforts to provide needed services.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSE TO REOPEN SANCTUARY

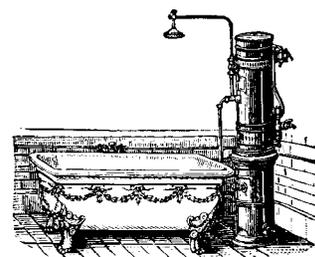
by Jenny Redfern

First Unitarian Church Publicity Committee Chair

Members and friends of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose plan to return to worship in their rebuilt Sanctuary in the fall of 1998. A special worship service to rededicate and reopen the sanctuary will be held on Friday evening, October 16th, which is the third anniversary of a devastating fire which did extensive damage to the sanctuary. The first regular Sunday service will be held on October 18th at 10:30am. The century-old downtown church at 160 North Third Street, across from St. James Park, was heavily damaged by fire on October 16, 1995, during renovation. This first service, to be led by the Reverend Lindi Ramsden, will celebrate a "Coming Home" for the South Bay's oldest liberal religious congregation

A California Historic Landmark, the First Unitarian Church building has probably been put to more uses since 1892 than any other historic San Jose structure. In its central location and with its unique domed architecture, the sanctuary has served not only as a place of worship, but also as an incubator for community activism. The building has been popular as a community theater, concert hall, town meeting hall, adult education center, support group haven, charity center, emergency shelter, home to innovative social agencies and, with beautiful stained glass windows and great acoustics, a popular wedding chapel. A brief history of the church was published in PACSJ's October 1995 issue of *CONTINUITY*, and a story about the renovation and devastating fire appeared in the Spring 1996 issue.

First Unitarian Church members invite the public to join them for worship and rededication services. "We want to reach out to the friends and community that have supported us so generously over these three difficult years," says Rev. Ramsden. "We want to honor them on this joyous occasion." For more information phone (408) 292-3858.





WE LOVE A MYSTERY!

THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED SIGN

by *Ellen Garboske*

In June PAC board member and dedicated preservationist Beth Wyman circulated the above photo and a notice informing us that someone had stolen the sign and asking we “Historic Preservation Detectives” to get on the trail! She told us that this was an early neon sign which had been attached to a building at 584 Columbia Avenue (at Bird Avenue) in San Jose. Catholic Charities owns the building and is in the planning stages for building a 109 unit affordable housing complex on the property. They were forced to evict the tenant (a family auto repair business), and when they later inspected the property the sign was missing. The former tenants said that “somebody” came by the day before and took the sign. They didn’t know who! Catholic Charities told them that the sign wasn’t theirs to give away, but the deed was done, so CC filed a police report valuing the sign at \$25,000. Several weeks later the former tenants called and told Catholic Charities that “if the relocation pot was

sweetened” they might be able to “find the sign.” (Does this reek of extortion, or what?) Catholic Charities then filed an amended police report. Beth described the sign as very large (estimated 20’ high), on a steel post that had to be cut, then a very big truck would be needed to haul the sign away! When the property first came up for development approval, Beth had done the environmental review and conditioned approval on saving the sign and documenting the house.

Several days later April Halberstadt and I were doing research on another subject at the San Jose Historical Museum. We showed Archivist Leslie Masunaga the photo and notice, she looked astounded and said “I know where that is!” Seems in her wanderings she had noticed a very large object sticking up in the air in the parking lot behind a local antique dealer’s shop, her preservationist curiosity kicked in, so she went for a closer look but didn’t realize it was stolen property until we showed her Beth’s missive. April immediately went down to confirm that it was the missing sign, then phoned 311 to report it. After much run around and lack of interest from the PD, April finally told someone in Burglary “not to transfer her again, that there was evidence that needed to be secured!” She finally got results, Burglary and Catholic Charities identified the stolen property. The antique dealer says he paid \$1000 for the sign and to have it removed.

We were feeling pretty good about tracking down the sign, but when April was talking to a Catholic Charities representative she was told that they planned to incorporate the sign into the facade design of their housing project, which sounded great! However, they were going to paint the sign and put new letters on it. Gadzooks! Is this dastardly deed the reward for returning a valuable vernacular object to their owner?

In true crime solving procedure, I pose the following questions: (1) If April had known how Catholic Charities planned to desecrate this historic sign, would she have absconded with it? (2) Can we persuade CC not to commit another crime? (3) Will the former tenants be prosecuted for burglary, or for selling stolen property? (4) Should the former tenants be prosecuted for extortion? (5) Was the antique dealer culpable? Let’s hear from our readers, then tune in to the next issue of *CONTINUITY* for reader’s comments and an update on the outcome of this crime.

ZETTERQUIST APPOINTED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

by April Halberstadt

One of local history's most ardent and knowledgeable champions was appointed to the San Jose Planning Commission in June. James Zetterquist, most recently the chairman of the Historic Landmarks Commission was chosen from among 35 applicants for one of the five openings on this important planning board.

Jim is a native San Josean with deep, deep roots in the area. He remarked during his City Council interview for the position that his family had been living in Frank Fiscalini's council district for nearly two thousand years. Jim counts a native American among his many California forebears.

Jim has also served on the board of directors of the San Jose Historical Museum and was personally involved in the restoration of the interior of the Peralta adobe. He has been an outspoken supporter of the preservation of the Jose Theater and the Montgomery Hotel. His expertise was enormously helpful on many other preservation issues during his tenure on the Historic Landmarks Commission.

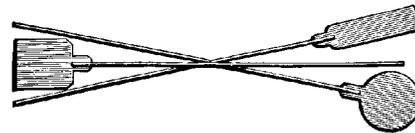
A resident of Willow Glen, Jim runs his own architectural design business. He is married, with a baby daughter who just celebrated her first birthday. We congratulate Jim on his appointment and look forward to supporting his continuing efforts.

LIVING HISTORY DAYS ON THE ALAMEDA

Docents will lead historic walking tours, artists from the neighborhood and local schools will perform, games and entertainment for children will be available and horse-drawn carriages will tour the neighborhood. Children will be able to experience history through hands on activities such as cornhusk doll making. All this and more can be found at the fourth annual *Living History Days on the Alameda* to be held Sunday, October 4, 1998 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The festival will again be held on The Alameda between Hester Avenue and Hanchett Avenue in San Jose.

Living History Day on the Alameda celebrates the history and people of The Alameda and surrounding community. The festival provides an opportunity to step back in time to the days when silent films played at local theaters and streetcars traveled the Grand Boulevard. The Alameda, the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County are promoted and highlighted through the rich history venues.

PAC SJ will have a booth showing local history and preservation efforts and issues. If you would like to help staff the booth, leave your name and number on PAC's answering machine at (408) 947-8025. This is one way you can really help your organization.



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ENCLOSED IS MY \$ _____ CONTRIBUTION FOR
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**Please complete this form,
 enclose it with your check, and mail to:
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CALENDAR

AUGUST
17 (Mon) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street
SEPTEMBER
5-7 Tapestry 'n Talent Festival of the Arts Downtown San Jose
21 (Mon) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street
24-26 Third Street Fiesta: An Urban Olympiad St. James Park and Surrounding Neighborhood
OCTOBER
4 (Sun) Alameda History Day — On the Alameda
10 (Sat) Pumpkins in the Park Festival Guadalupe River Park
19 (MON) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a non-profit membership organization providing information to property owners and education to the public, and promoting programs and policies for historic preservation and compatible new architectural design.

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