

CONTINUITY

Volume 33, No. 3

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

Fall 2022

COVER STORY

- 1 Saving Former SJ City Hall

PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 4 City Landmark Threatened
- 5 Renovated Hayes Mansion
- 5 Cesar Chavez Landmark Site
- 6 Losing Sunlite Bakery
- 7 Film Archive Leaves San Jose
- 7 Little Italy Renaissance

PAC*SJ NEWS

- 8 On the **RADAR**
 - Graves House
 - Downtown West/Google
 - Wade Warehouse, Alviso
 - 1881 W. San Carlos Project
 - Fountain Alley Project
- 9 PAC*SJ Summer Sale Success
- 10 PAC*SJ Calendar
- 11 PAC*SJ 2022 Endangered Eight
- 11 Pig Sign Soon —Temporary New Home Soon
- 11 "Day on the Bay" Festival at Alviso
- 12 New Pin & T-Shirt Designs
- 13 In Memory of John Mitchell
- 14 PAC*SJ Volunteer Party
- 17 Memorial Donations Received

PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 16 In Memoriam—Kitty Monahan
- 18 In Memoriam—Russ Robinson
- 19 Membership Form
- 19 Landmarks Commission News
- 19 2022 Election Survey
- 20 Board of Directors Roster

Can We Save Former San Jose City Hall?

The former San Jose City Hall at 801 N. 1st Street is threatened with demolition by Santa Clara County, which owns the site. The building is eligible for historic designation on all levels--national, state, and local.

In June, after PAC*SJ presented arguments for retaining the building, the County Historical Heritage Commission recommended denial of the application for demolition.

Therefore, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors will now address the issue

this fall. PAC*SJ is a strong supporter for saving the building and has commissioned its own adaptive reuse study for the county's consideration.

The County has no defined plans for the site after razing the building. According to the County's 2018 Civic Center Master Plan, the 16.1-acre site allows significant space for additional new development while leaving the former City Hall in place. This approach makes sense. Studies have shown that reusing and upgrading a building is preferred

for addressing climate change and reducing environmental impacts.¹

(Cont'd p. 2)



Former San Jose City Hall at 801 N. 1st Street.

City Hall (Cont'd)

In addition to these concerns, demolishing the former City Hall building (below) without presenting adequate alternatives, sets a dangerous precedent for the life of other historic resources in San Jose and Santa Clara County.

To summarize, PAC*SJ's concerns over demolition of the former City Hall are:

- 1) Demolition is More Expensive Than Preservation
- 2) No Replacement Plan for Site
- 3) Reuse Infeasibility Unproven
- 4) Demolition Ignores Civic Center Master Plan
- 5) Reuse is Greener than Demolition
- 6) Demolition = Dangerous Precedent and Double-Standard

PAC*SJ believes demolishing the iconic 1958 former City Hall building is not justifiable, and that adaptive reuse is feasible. Therefore, PAC*SJ recommends to the County Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Denial of the Landmark Alteration Permit
- 2) No action on the Final EIR certification
- 3) Recirculation of the Draft EIR with clarified project objectives and alternative analysis.

We also recommend increased public engagement and transparency in the planning process.

For more information go to PAC*SJ's response letter and rebuttal presentation to the County Historical

(Cont'd p. 3)



**Looking for the “Greenest” Building?
Start with the one that already exists.**

City Hall (Cont'd)



Arnold Del Carlo Collection, Sourisseau Academy

Heritage Commission at the link below.

Do you have a significant memory of former City Hall? If so, please share it with us at advocacy@preservation.org . ☹

¹ <https://www.preservation.org/endangered-8-2022/former-san-josé-city-hall>

Left & page 2, early photos soon after the City Hall was completed in 1958. Designed by Donald Francis Haines with Modern architecture and International Style features. It was one of the first curtain wall buildings erected on the West Coast during the Modern period.



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/comments to
info@preservation.org.

408-998-8105 or to

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

© 2022 Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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

Former City Hall

*Below, Santa Clara County's 2018 Master Plan
includes the iconic former San Jose City Hall.*



An architectural rendering of a modern multi-story building, likely a residential or mixed-use development, situated on a city street corner. The building features a prominent corner section with a glass facade and a rooftop garden. The ground floor is constructed of red brick with white decorative elements. The upper floors are primarily glass, revealing interior spaces with balconies and a rooftop garden area. The building is surrounded by a city street with wet pavement, reflecting the surrounding environment. Pedestrians, a cyclist, and cars are visible on the street, along with traffic lights and streetlights. In the background, other city buildings and a clear blue sky are visible.

Rendering of the former State Meat Market landmark facades at 4th and E. Santa Clara St. with the proposed 6-story, U-shaped addition.

building incorporating
t wall of the State
ent
rdable housing up-
n high end/boutique

Downtown Association for “its outstanding contribution to the look and character of downtown.” That “look and character” is about to be adversely impacted.

The historic integrity of the site and its environment will change significantly with the proposed new, contemporary design and form addition to the site. The project has not

rest/south walls be
of the two remaining
ld be removed. The
re of the historic
exist. If the
significantly
property, its en-
mark

design and four additional stories. The project does not
relate architecturally or materially to the historic landmark
building, nor will it comply with design guidelines for
(Cont'd p. 5)



established in the Low family, the ground floor of which he lived on the corner. He was one of the first Chinese immigrants throughout the market was Carl Kwong.

consequently
in the San Jose



Renovated Hayes Mansion

The renovation of the historic Hayes Mansion has been completed. Its lobby, 214 rooms and suites, and a new restaurant/bar/cocktail lounge/terrace (the Palm & Ember) have been completely revamped. The Mansion is now part of the Curio Collection by Hilton. The 33,000 square foot event space was also upgraded.

The 1904 Hayes Mansion is an example of Mission Revival architecture. In 1975, the Hayes Mansion was added to both the National Register of Historic Places and was designated a California historical landmark.

Landmark Threatened (Cont'd)

additions to and rehabilitation of historic buildings. The scale, mass, and design are not compatible with the facade and east wall of the former State Meat Market.

PAC*SJ believes San Jose needs to retain its city landmarks. Demolishing most of the building and adding a much larger, incompatible structure not only cancels out another city landmark, but impacts the district. The purpose of designating buildings as city landmarks is to save them! As developers keep chipping away at our small inventory of historic buildings, we will eventually have little left to tell the stories of our past and appreciate earlier architectural styles.

PAC*SJ prefers the suggested Alternative 2 in the EIR—leaving the building intact and constructing the project around it. This makes sense for saving San Jose's historic resources while reducing the environmental impacts.

The second building proposed for demolition at 130-134 E. Santa Clara St. was designed by Wolfe & McKenzie in 1901. However, it has been so altered that all distinguishing features are gone. It does not appear on the city's Historic Resources Inventory (HRI).

The planned demolition of the two-story concrete building behind the city landmark (State Meat Market) located at 17-19 S. Fourth Street, constructed in 1939, features attractive Moderne decorative bands across the facade, three-lite casement windows on the second floor, and a metal cornice. ❧

Preservation Kudos

Cesar Chavez City Landmark Site

PAC*SJ was concerned when the Cesar Chavez city landmark site went up for sale, fearing that the site would be demolished.

But the parcel has been purchased by Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment and should be in good hands. The non-profit organization promotes educational opportunities and helps local families with basic needs.

The site at 53 Scharff Avenue was landmarked in 1994 because Cesar Chavez and his wife Helen lived there from 1951 to 1953. The Chavez family owned the site for decades. There is a landmark plaque in the front yard and a sidewalk sign saying "Cesar Chavez Memorial Walkway" directs residents to another significant city landmark, McDonnell Hall at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Chavez worked in local agriculture, served the community, organized voter drives at the church, and in 1962, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became known as United Farm Workers.

The Chavez House site will celebrate and honor Cesar Chavez's work and dedication along with the contributions made by the Chavez family. A living museum, an interpretive learning center, and a community space are planned.

Acquiring the Chavez site by the non-profit Amigos de Guadalupe was made possible by generous donations from the City of San Jose, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the Sobrato Philanthropies, John Matthew and Andie Sobrato, the Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simon Foundation.

The property includes a duplex, a separate garage and a few out buildings. In the early 1950s, the Chavez family replaced the small house Cesar and Helen Chavez lived in during the early 1950s with the duplex. According to a report in the Mercury News,¹ the brother of Cesar Chavez, Librado Chavez, confirmed that fact in 2007. However, this does not diminish the importance of the site which commemorates Cesar Chavez's good work for social justice. ❧

¹ Sal Pizarro, *Mercury News*, July 30, 2022

Losing Sunlite Bakery Building

The former Sunlite Bakery Building is slated for demolition soon. The 1936 Art Moderne designed structure stands at 145 S. Montgomery Street near Diridon Station. Google will begin preparing the site this year for the first of many buildings constructed on 80 acres, part of its massive Downtown West mixed-use project.

Sunlite's artistic entrance with Art Deco features and the arched windows on each side will be removed, stored, and incorporated into a new building within the project according to an agreement with the City of San Jose's Planning Division. In August, salvage was offered to businesses, preservationists, and individuals.

The Sunlite Bakery became the largest bakery in Santa Clara County by the 1950s. Sunlite bread was "sold in 98% of all food stores from King City in the south to Burlingame on the peninsula, and to Hayward in Alameda County."¹ A staff of 140 could produce 14,000 loaves of bread an hour which required so much flour it took delivery of a full boxcar load of flour each day on its own spur track.

The company was founded in 1933 by the Gilliland family on Almaden Avenue. At that time they produced just 300 loaves of bread each hour and only had three delivery trucks. By 1936 the bakery moved to Montgomery, its new, larger building designed by Ralph Wyckoff.

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company bought the



Art Deco Moderne building in the 1970s to use for their equipment; the interior was greatly modified at that time. Admirable features of the building include a scalloped cornice and ribbon windows alongside the projecting, stepped front entrance with a rounded cornered canopy. Fluted pilasters separate recessed window panels and the central block projects out with a triple bank of arched windows, all details identified with the Streamline Moderne architecture. A bay on the south end incorporates glass brick.

Allen Gilliland Sr., the successful bakery owner, became enchanted in the 1950s with the idea of a new technology--television. Next door to the bakery, he founded KNTV, the first TV station in the South Bay, broadcasting on Sept. 12, 1955. He did so well financially that he sold his bakery in 1966. Later Gilliland's son founded Gill Cable in San Jose.

The KNTV station stood next door on the NW corner of Park Avenue and S. Montgomery Street and would have qualified as a city landmark but burned down on April 14, 2014. ☹

¹http://vasonabranh.com/packing_houses/index.php?title=Sunlite_Bakery



The former Sunlite Bakery Building at 145 S. Montgomery Street is slated for demolition to make way for Google's Downtown West—its first phase of construction.

(Photo: G. Frank taken in 2016)

Film Archive Leaves San Jose

The Academic Film Archive of North America founded in 2001, is leaving San Jose for its new home at a major eastern university this fall (formal press release in September) where it will be a cornerstone of that institution's Microcinema and Film Studies department. Valued at \$20 million, the archive holds approximately 7500 films and ephemera, and is the resource for more than 400 free public shows given in San Jose. A media tour of the archive was offered in early August before it permanently leaves San Jose.

—Geoff Alexander, Director
Academic Film Archive of North America

S. Montgomery Street Losses

Google is beginning its Downtown West project with phase one. As early as September, selected buildings on S. Montgomery Street will be demolished to make way for Google's Downtown West hi-rises. Below are the structures to be razed.

- 1) 102 S. Montgomery St., former Patty's Inn, a popular dive bar that has served residents and rail workers for many decades. Building is over 100 years old. Listed as a City Structure of Merit. See photo below.
- 2) 140 S. Montgomery St., Airgas Welding Supply store.
- 3) 327 Otterson St., a former bread depot.
- 4) 145 S. Montgomery St., the 1936 Sunlite Bakery, a Streamline Moderne building with an interesting facade. Listed as a City Structure of Merit. See article on page 6. ☼

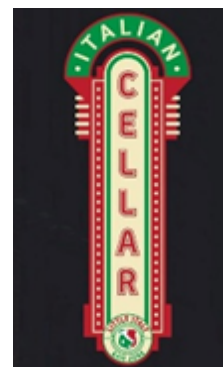


Little Italy Renaissance

2022 is a year of rebirth and milestones for Little Italy San Jose. The renaissance of Little Italy is here with six new Italian businesses set to open by the end of this year and our **5th Annual Little Italy San Jose Festival** will be held on Sunday, **October 2nd**!

We have been extremely busy over the past year and a half with the construction of the Little Italy Cultural Center & Museum and Famiglia Meduri's Poor House Bistro project. Both are progressing along nicely. The Cultural Center & Museum will be the heart of Little Italy San Jose by depicting the many contributions our community has given to Santa Clara County, showing the vibrancy of our Italian culture, and creating a social gathering space for Italian Americans both young and old.

Solo Vino by Enoteca La Storia was the first of the new businesses to open on June 22nd. We are hoping to have our Italian Cellar bar open by October. A huge thank you goes to Jeffrey Sobrato for his sponsorship of our marquee "Italian Cellar" neon sign pictured right.



The Little Wine House is hoping to open by September and Famiglia Meduri's Poor House Bistro will be open by the end of the year (hopefully sooner).

Our Oct. 2nd Festival will be bigger and better than ever as we have many of the best Italian Restaurants in the South Bay as vendors and have a great lineup of Free entertainment including Pasquale Esposito, Anthony Nino Lane Band, Vanessa Racci and new this year, Cory Pesatauro. Also new this year is our expansion into the park that will be highlighted with a collection of Ferrari's and Lamborghini's on display. ☼

— Joshua DeVincenzi Melander
President – Little Italy San Jose



ON THE RADAR



Graves House, 4145 Mitzi Dr.

The owners of the 1868 Graves House parcel at 4146 Mitzi Drive have submitted a request to rezone the parcel from Multiple Residential Zoning District to a Planned Development Zoning District. This allows the on-site relocation and rehabilitation of the existing Graves House in addition to constructing up to 12 three-story townhomes on the 0.631 gross acre site.

Downtown West/Google Project

Recently PAC*SJ has learned of new changes regarding the Downtown West Project. It seems that construction realities are running afoul of promises made by Google to preserve historic places due to the challenge of preserving them in situ while executing a massive construction project. Specifically, PAC*SJ is alarmed about the new proposal to disassemble the former 1935 Helwig Ironworks (Navlet) Building on Montgomery Street. Google claims they need to construct underground parking under the building and can't do it unless the building is moved. They propose to reassemble the brick structure following the completion of the underground parking. PAC*SJ is strongly concerned that the integrity of the building will be compromised.

Wade Warehouse & Residence, Alviso

The Planning Commission Project Approval has been appealed by the owner and consultant, Garden City Construction Co. PAC*SJ continues to work with Wade family members, Garden City Co., and the City of San Jose to ensure the Warehouse is appropriately memorialized.

1881 West San Carlos Street Project

PAC*SJ provided written EIR comments and testified at the HLC (Historic Landmarks Commission) meeting on this project. The core of this site is currently unincorporated land and will need to be annexed into the City of San Jose. The developers propose demolishing the Antique Row buildings at 1883-87 and 1891-85 W. San Carlos that are eligible as city landmarks per the ARM Group Historical Evaluation Report. These buildings are a rarity along San Carlos Street and represent an earlier style of architecture and lifestyle. PAC*SJ believes they should be saved. The project proposes a 7-story mixed-use development including an assisted care facility, condos, and ground floor retail. PAC*SJ could back the environmentally superior alternative discussed in the EIR.

Fountain Alley Project

This project is proposed at the 1.25 acre parking lot on S. 2nd Street between E. Santa Clara and E. San Fernando Streets, in the center of the National Register-listed San Jose Downtown Commercial Historic District. PAC*SJ strongly opposes this project because it would impact the overall integrity of the Historic District. The massive 21-story curvilinear mixed-use building does not comply with the 2003 Historic District Design Guidelines nor the 2019 Guidelines and Standards. We question whether the city envisioned a project of this massing and scale when developing its design guidelines.

The historic analysis by TreanorHL states that the proposed building is not compatible with the historic district in size, scale, proportion and massing. Its mass and scale are immense and totally disproportionate to the much smaller historic structures nearby. It is a project that will shadow and overwhelm everything else around it. It will be the focal point of the entire District by its sheer mass, taking up more than half of the whole block.

Additionally, the project will eliminate parking and access to the rear of the S. 1st Street buildings. Parking and access are both critical to the viability of the retail businesses in those historic buildings.

(Cont'd p. 9)



PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—

- Diridon Station
- Alum Rock Log Cabin
- McCabe Hall
- Montgomery Hotel
- Hotel De Anza
- St. James Park
- Foreman's Arena

PAC*SJ Early Summer Sale a Success

PAC*SJ's early summer sale on June 24-25 was successful even though we had no big ticket items and didn't have enough room to display many boxes of collectibles in storage. Those items were offered at our End of Summer Sale on August 26 and 27 at 260 South 13th Street.

Many thanks to our Naglee Park hosts Colleen and Rich Eilbert who let us set up in their front yard and to the family of John Mitchell who allowed us to use his property across the street. We moved the sale to South 14th St. to comply with the City's policy of limiting garage sales to two per year at one address. Antiques Colony joined us at the sale with an eclectic collection of antiques and unusual items making the sale more interesting and fun.

Many thanks to our truckers: Lynne Stephenson, Robert Carter, Joe Baronessa, Tim McAuliff, Paul Wedel, Jim Bunce, Steve Cohen and Dev Rendler.

Volunteers who priced, sorted, displayed and sold our donations include: Rebecca Smith, Ron Hagen, Sandy Swirsky, Lyle Merithew, Wini Leeds, Joyce Weissman, Leslie Masunaga, Rosie Gallipeau, Lisa Ruder, Sara Bruce, Alice Gosak Gary, Clarice and Cameron Grant Coles, Rose Vandomelen, Deborah Mills, Heinz Boedecker,

Audrey Rust, Corey Clifford, Shawn McCarson, Gilda and John Messmer, Luisa McEwen, Gayle Frank, Lisa Wangsness, and "on the spot" helpers. Conexion SCCO Day Labor workers were: Emerson, Jorge, and Lee. Lunches were prepared by Rebecca Smith and Tim McAuliff. What a team!

Remainders from the sale were delivered to thrift stores, homeless shelters, public libraries, etc.

Many people ask where do you get all these donations or where did you get a specific item. Often times, sacks and boxes are delivered in the dead of night to my porch. More frequently, members and neighbors deliver items with or without a note. We have many friends in the antique resale market, estate liquidators and real estate professionals. We never know what we will receive until we open the box, like Christmas. Speaking of Christmas, our PAC*SJ Huge Holiday Sale will be held on Nov. 4-5!

Thanks again for supporting preservation and honoring San Jose's history. ☘

—Patt Curia, PAC*SJ Donations Chair

RADAR cont'd

PAC*SJ submitted an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) Comment Letter with our multiple concerns on 8/2/22.

In addition to the issues above, the EIR does not consider the cumulative impact of this project when combined with other projects within and just outside the Historic District. The EIR's analysis of alternatives to the proposed project is not comprehensive.

Finally, the construction of this immense structure would endanger adjacent historic buildings through vibration and potential physical damage from the activity. ☘



Rendering of proposed massive building at the Fountain Alley parking lot on 2nd Street. It would overwhelm and shadow the historic resources in the Downton Historic District.

PAC*SJ 2022 Calendar

- Sep 19 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Oct 6 Thursday, History Park, 5:30-9:30 PM. **“Valley of Heart’s Delight: Down by the Station.”** Rod Diridon Sr. will be honored. New exhibit at Trolley Barn will open. Proceeds will go to restore the 1869 Coyote Train Depot at the park. For tickets visit historysanjose.org
- Oct 8 Saturday, **“Day on the Bay”** at Alviso Marina County Park, 1195 Hope St. 10 AM—3 PM. A fun-filled festival along the South Bay shores. Visit us at our PAC*SJ booth! Details p. 11.
- Oct 17 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Oct 20 Thursday. Dancing Pig Sign Celebration party at History San Jose. Stay tuned for details.
- Nov 4-5 Friday 9 AM—6 PM, Saturday 9 AM—12 PM, **PAC*SJ Holiday Boutique Sale** at 295 Sequoia Avenue in San Jose.
- Nov 21 Monday, PAC*SJ **Annual Meeting & Board Meeting**, 6:30—9:00 PM. Location TBD. Final vote for Board of Directors positions. Look for your e-ballot a few weeks before and vote!
- Dec 19 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*

** Board meeting may take place online or meet at different locations. Call 408-998-8105 to confirm.*

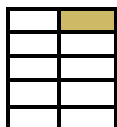
PAC*SJ is Up and Selling on eBay!

Check out our sales items at our seller name, PAC*SJ. We'll be posting a range of interesting items that will reach a wider audience via an online auction. Mark PAC*SJ as a favorite seller and check back often to see what's up for bid. Your donations will soon become famous!

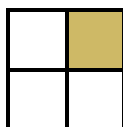
ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

Continuity is distributed to over 400 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.

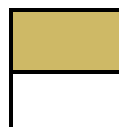
Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!



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



1/4 Page
Single issue
\$100



1/2 Page
Single issue
\$200



Full Page
Single issue
\$375

2022 PAC*SJ's Endangered Eight—We Persevere

Diridon Station

(Built 1935), 65 Cahill St.
Threat: Redevelopment

San Jose Flea Market

(Founded 1960), 1590 Berryessa Rd.
Threat: Redevelopment

First Church of Christ, Scientist

(Built 1905), 43 E. St. James St.
Threat: Neglect

Former San José City Hall

(Built 1958), 801 N. First St.
Threat: Neglect, Redevelopment

Alviso Historic District

Elizabeth, Gold, El Dorado, Taylor, Hope Streets
Threat: Neglect

Burbank Theater

(Built 1949), 560 S. Bascom Ave.
Threat: Neglect, Redevelopment

Downtown Commercial Historic District

1st-4th, Santa Clara San Fernando Sts.
Threat: Redevelopment

Graves House

(Built 1868), 4146 Mitzi Dr.
Threat: Neglect

To learn more, take action, and see photos, visit www.preservation.org/e8

Pig Sign's New Temporary Home

The Dancing Pig Neon Sign on Montgomery Street will soon be moved by Google to History Park in San Jose. The Arrow Sign Company is scheduled to repair its damaged circuitry. The new home will be temporary, possibly 3-5 years. The sign at present is in the way of the first phase of construction for the Downtown West project. When phase one is completed, the Pig Sign is expected to be returned to an appropriate location near to its original spot.

At History Park the Pig Sign is planned for a space along Senter Road between the Orchard Supply Hardware neon sign and the Vietnamese Museum.

You may remember the PAC*SJ relighting celebration of the Pig Sign in June of 2019. We are planning a repeat party this fall to celebrate the lighting of the sign at its new temporary home. So **save Oct. 20th**. More details to follow. ☘



The Dancing Pig Neon Sign on June 20, 2019 when it was lit for the first time after its restoration

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

“Day on the Bay” Festival at Alviso Marina—Oct. 8th

Join us on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022 from 10 am to 3 pm** at **Alviso Marina County Park, 1195 Hope St., Alviso, CA**. The Supervisorial District 3 office (Supervisor Otto Lee) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department are proud to present this fun-filled festival along the beautiful South Bay shores of Alviso.

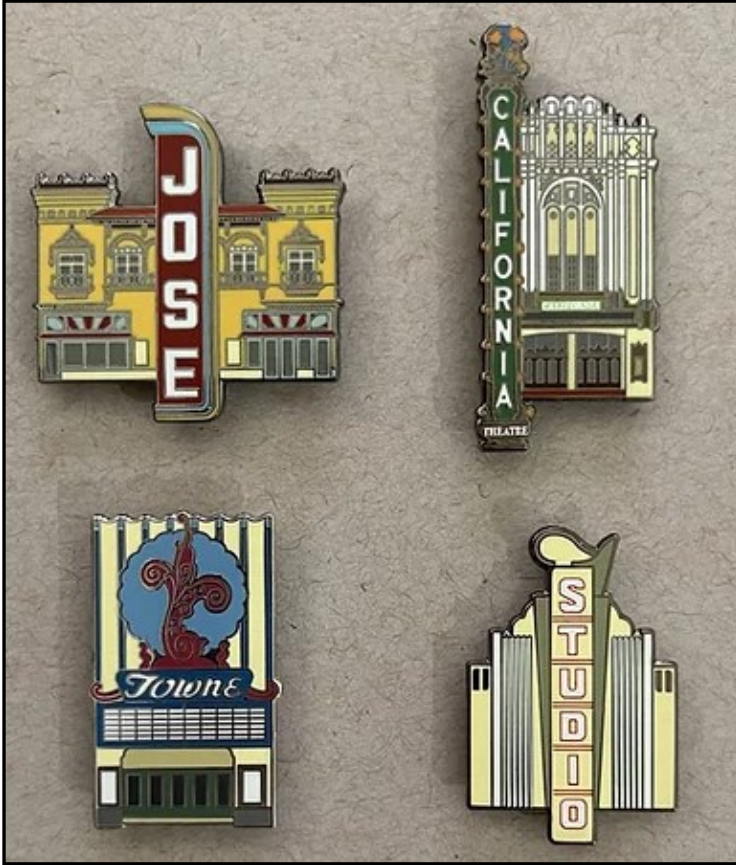
The “Day on the Bay” welcomes community organizations, non-profits, government agencies, businesses, and more, back to the Alviso Marina for the multicultural

festival. The 2022 event will include a resource fair and showcase the beautiful Alviso Marina, along with several family-friendly and recreational activities. This special event is a wonderful opportunity to share information, services, and resources with the local community.

PAC*SJ will be there with our booth, selling pins, t-shirts and more. We will display photos of the Alviso Historic District and have information on the historic resources in Alviso and in San Jose. ☘

New Sign Pins and T-shirt Designs

Visit our shop on line at www.preservation.org/shop to see the new designs for our local historic enamel pins. We also have a new t-shirt with many of our favorite signs. Check them out!



(Advertisement)

How Soon The Flowers Fall

Local San Jose writer, Walter Soellner, just published his 4th novel, How Soon the Flowers Fall. Historic fiction at its best. Fast paced drama, romance, intrigue and tragedy in the 1930s on the eve of war.

Available in eBook and paperback on Amazon.

Remember: A good book is a friend forever!



In Memory of John Mitchell

John R. K. Mitchell, a loving father and community advocate, passed away at his home on June 1, 2022.

John was born in Rhinelander, Wisconsin on January 28, 1948. After moving to Flagstaff, Arizona as a child, John became involved with The Boy Scouts, where he eventually ascended to Eagle Scout, mastering survival skills and serving his community through his teenage years.

Eventually, John's family landed in Burbank, California, where he graduated from Burroughs High School. Shortly thereafter, John left home and migrated north to San Jose, a city he would call home for the next six decades.

After earning his Masters Degree in Alternative Education from San Jose State University, John became an active member in his community focusing on the preservation of the city's history and architecture, ensuring its story will be told for generations to come.

John was also a champion of water conservation and alternative energy, turning his passion for both into a rewarding business. An avid writer in his spare time, John published two historical fiction novels.

He is survived by his daughter Sarah Mitchell. A celebration of life was held at his Naglee Park home on July 9, 2022. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to The Preservation Action Council of San Jose at <https://www.preservation.org/>

—Sarah Mitchell

We lost a dear friend on June 1, 2022 in John Mitchell. I know John had interacted with many of you on a number of preservation initiatives, perhaps none more near and dear to his heart than an ongoing effort to add a vertical extension for a reactivated belfry to San Jose's historic clock tower. Having worked with John over the past five years, I can tell you that, even in disagreements on



John R. K. Mitchell

1/28/1948—6/1/2022

policy for those of you who are in leadership, he respected your work on behalf of all of us who call this place our home. We celebrate the life of one of San Jose's bigger than life guys who believed anything and everything is possible here.

—Mike Sodergren

John Mitchell was passionate about history and preservation. He joined the PAC*SJ Board of Directors in 2013 and served until this year. One of his driving passions was the restoration of the clock tower at the Museum of

Art on Market Street. The 1892 Romanesque building was the first federal building in San Jose, opening as our post office. It became the Art Museum in 1970 after serving as the library for 33 years. It is listed on the national and state historic registers and is designated a city landmark.

The building was heavily damaged in the 1906 earthquake, destroying the tower and clock. The tower was replaced with a shorter version without its steeple and a new, now rare, Nels Johnson clock was installed in 1908. But without the belfry, the clock's McNeely bell can't ring.

John was PAC*SJ's Clock Tower Committee Chair and explored all possibilities for restoring the clock tower. This year the committee took on the task of applying for a California state grant. A PAC*SJ funded feasibility study confirmed an added belfry is structurally possible without damaging the historic landmark. We will keep you posted on that outcome.

John Mitchell's literal dying request was that the people of San Jose carry out this vertical extension and belfry activation project that shows off this turn of the century masterpiece of time-keeping technology and let the bell ring again!

For more information visit <http://sjclocktower.org/> and to donate please go to www.preservation.org/sj-tower-view.

⌘

PAC*SJ Party for Volunteers

PAC*SJ celebrated our volunteers on a warm Sunday, June 26th at the wonderful Historic Messina Orchard on Capitol Avenue in San Jose. Not only did we honor our volunteers, but we also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Messina Historic Orchard. Marilyn Messina, PAC*SJ Board member and our host, reminisced about her grandparents first purchasing the property in 1922 and how it evolved into a thriving enterprise of fruit orchards. The site, with attractive gardens, a small orchard, and vintage out buildings, holds a historic house from the 1930s, furnished as it was then, and a larger home.

About 100 attended the outdoor event and enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Holy Cannoli. A dessert competition brought in



Marilyn Messina, standing, talks with guests.

Mason – second prize fruit mold, and Marilyn Ross Brown – third prize apricot pie. They were all delicious!



Ron Hagen hugs Patt Curia and announces our thanks for her dedication and hard work.

many yummy treats served after lunch. The winners for the tastiest desserts were, Manuela Burge – first prize plum cobbler, Marylou

Speeches were made thanking all the volunteers who have worked so hard to support PAC*SJ and our mission to save our local historic resources. A few volunteers rose to thank Patt Curia for her dedication and hard work in managing our yard/salvage sales every year. Her efforts and all her volunteers help to make the PAC*SJ mission possible.

Raffle winners were Krista Van Laan, Walter Soellner and Joyce Weissman.

Music was provided by The Banjo Twins - Chip Curry and David Magram. ☼

(More photos on pages 15, 16)



*Ben Leech, PAC*SJ E. D.*

Party for Volunteers (Cont'd)



*Left.
Walter
Soellner won
our new
packets of
sign pins
in raffle.*



*Above from left, John Olson, Eileen Hunter (sitting),
Pete Anderson, and Franklin Maggi (sitting).*



Left, Rod Diridon Sr., and Sal Pizarro.

(Photos by Luis Pedro Castillo.)

*Below from left, Gayle Frank, Michael Shakespear,
Lisa Ruder, Sylvia Carroll, Pam Burns,
and Krista Van Laan.*



*Left,
Marylou
Mason,
a dessert
winner
with her
fruit
mold.*



Party for Volunteers (Cont'd)



Left, Paul Bernal, one of the dessert judges, awards Manuela Burge first prize for her plum cobbler.



Above, Russ Danielson, our volunteer extraordinaire, who has been tending to the Graves House site by visiting it regularly, cleaning out brush, disposing of trash, boarding up potential entrances, and even filling a septic tank hole. Thank you Russ!



*From left, Rosie Gallipeau, Lynne Stephenson (PAC*SJ President, sitting), Rebecca Smith, Leslie Masunaga, Lucille Boone (sitting), Les Levitt, Sara Bruce (sitting), and Lisa Wangsness.*

Have you renewed your 2022-2023 PAC*SJ annual Membership?

Visit www.preservation.org/getinvolved to renew!

Donations in Memory of:

In Memory of
Mary Hulbert
Rosaleen Zisch

In Memory of
Norman Mineta
Nancy Riddle Iversen

In Memory of
John Mitchell
Anonymous
Robert Bettencourt
Curtis Jones/Lucille Boone
Patricia Curia
Robin Hayr
André Luthard
Patti Phillips
Janet Qualls
Lynda Sereno

In Memory of
Thang Do
Urban Catalyst

In Memory of
Russ Robinson
Anonymous

Mary Hulbert, the mother of PAC*SJ member Rosaleen Zisch, was the model for the famous Miss Careful sign on W. San Carlos Street. She operated the Diamond Laundry for decades.

Thang Do, CEO of San Jose-based Aedis Architects, played a pivotal role in helping revitalize downtown San Jose and transform S. First Street and the SoFa District. Two examples of his outstanding designs are the Vietnamese American Service Center on Tully Road and the SoFa Market on S. First St. He was a committed urbanist and environmentalist. He was a co-founding member of the Progressive Vietnamese American Organization and served on many other commissions and boards.

See page 18 for more on **Russ Robinson** and page 13 on **John Mitchell**.

Norman Mineta served on the San Jose City Council, was elected San Jose Mayor in 1971, and then served in the U.S. Congress for 20 years, including as Chair of the Transportation Committee from 1993 to 1995.

Our airport is named after Norman to honor his public service, dedication to transportation, and his quick response to the threats during the 9/11 attacks.

He also founded the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) a research and training unit in partnership with the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business at San José State University and authorized by the U.S. Congress.

Norman's vision was a connected world, where access to equitable, affordable, sustainable surface transportation is ensured through the highest quality research, planning and production. ☘

PAC*SJ Now Offers Life Memberships

PAC*SJ now offers Life Memberships for those that would prefer not remembering dues renewal every year and giving a little extra. Benefits also include free walking tours. Here are our new Lifetime Members.

★Robert Bettencourt

★Rosaleen Zisch

★Catherine Marlatt

In Memoriam

Kitty Monahan

1932-2022

Kitty Monahan was Santa Clara County's much-admired preservationist, educator and historian, whose greatest passion was developing and protecting the 4,000-acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

Kitty served on the PAC* SJ Board of Directors from 1992 until 2002, presiding as Vice President in 2001.

Kitty was often referred to as the unofficial "Mayor of New Almaden" and helped lead the county's purchase of the New Almaden Quicksilver Park. For the rest of her life she was the strongest advocate for the park and was well-known for taking visitors on a tour of the site.

In 2014, Kitty was recognized with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award for her 14,000 hours of volunteer work for the county's parks. In May of this year, Kitty received a "Lifetime Achievement" award by the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance.

A service was held on September 4th at the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association to celebrate Kitty's life. ☘



Russ Robinson

1935-2022

Russ Robinson was a well-known historian and preservationist, especially when it came to the history of Alviso and the South Bay Yacht Club. PAC* SJ members might remember his talks at the Yacht Club, especially at the Alviso historic walking tours. Russ was an active member of the historic South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso for many years. He was Commodore in 1978 and served as the Club Historian for years.

Russ was proud of the new foundation he created in 2017, the South Bay Historic Restoration Foundation. Its mission was to support historic restoration and educational opportunities especially in the Alviso Historic District of San Jose.

Russ was also a member of E Clampus Vitus (Clampers) and was a key team member behind the research and installation of the Jenny Lind Disaster Monument plaque at the Alviso Marina. Russ worked with the Clamper projects for placing historic plaques throughout the county.

On a more personal note, here is a message from Russ's son, Mark Robinson: "Dad was a kinetic force to be reckoned with; a dedicated family man, father, and husband; and a dynamo community servant. Dad was an avid sailor, an RV enthusiast, and a member of more boards and community organizations than I can list here. He will be missed intensely

by his family and wide circle of friends, former colleagues, boating pals, and RV fellow-travelers."

Local historians and preservationists will miss him too! Rest in peace, Russ. ☘





Donate your Car!

**Your Vehicle Donation Will Help
Support PAC* SJ in Its Efforts to Preserve
San Jose's Architectural Heritage**



PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE
408-998-8105 • www.preservation.org
FAST & EASY • TAX DEDUCTIBLE • FREE-TOWING



PAC*SJ Membership Application or Renewal

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application or Renewal

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
Lifetime Member	\$1,000

Join at the \$100 level or above and receive one or more special premiums listed below.

Please check if you would like to receive

1 premium for Contributor Level ☐

2 Premiums for Patron Level or higher ☐

No Premium ☐

Select your chosen Premium(s) below.

I am enclosing \$ _____ for PAC*SJ membership or donation.

(Or visit us online at www.preservation.org to renew or join)

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

HLC News

The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) has three new Commissioners, Adriana Ayala, Lawrence Camuso and Edward Janke. They join Paul Boehm (Chair), Anthony Raynsford (Vice Chair), Harriett Arnold, and Rachel Royer.

The Commission meets the first Wednesday evening of each month. The Commission continues to add more historic structures to the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI). ☼

Elections 2022

On Nov. 8th, 2022, local voters will choose candidates for important positions in San José and Santa Clara County. Visit our candidates survey on historic preservation related issues at the link below and be sure to vote.

[www.](http://www.preservation.org/2022candidates)

[preservation.org/2022candidates](http://www.preservation.org/2022candidates)

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, PAC*SJ does not make candidate endorsements.

Member Premiums

Choose 1 Premium for Contributor level;
Choose 2 Premiums for Patron level or above.

- ☐ Save the Pallesen T-Shirt: S, M, L, XL
- ☐ Pallesen Enamel Pin
- ☐ Hotel De Anza T-Shirt: XL
- ☐ Tales of Naglee Park by Jack Douglas
- ☐ San Jose Signs Guide (2017 booklet)
- ☐ Sunset Poster of your choice
- ☐ No Premium—my membership will fully support PAC*SJ programs.



PAC* SJ

**PRESERVATION ACTION
COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE**

History Park, 1650 Senter Road
San Jose, California 95112



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

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

PAC* SJ 2022 Board

Lynne Stephenson, President	Patt Curia
Michael Sodergren, V.P. Advocacy	José De La Cruz
John Frolli, Treasurer	Gayle Frank
Sylvia Carroll, Secretary	Marilyn Messina
André Luthard, Past President	Gratia Rankin

Staff: Ben Leech, Executive Director

Advisory Board

Bonnie Bamburg	Alan Hess
Marvin Bamburg, AIA	April Halberstadt
Paul Bernal, Esquire	Franklin Maggi
Heather David	Craig Mineweaser, AIA
Ken Fowler, CPA	Keith Watt