



# CONTINUITY

Newsletter of the Preservation Action Council of San José

Volume 4, Number 2, March/April 1993

## March Open Board Meeting Slated at Neptune Society Building

The Preservation Action Council's March open board of directors meeting will be held at the Neptune Society building, 798 South Second Street San José, on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. The building was built in 1926 by Paul D. Gambino for his family-owned Art Fixture Shop, where arts and crafts style lamps were manufactured.

The meeting will begin with a discussion and slide presentation about the building in general and the recent facade restoration process. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about one of the most fascinating historic buildings in San José.

The building originally contained a beamed-ceiling showroom, front offices, and wrought iron fabrication studios. The company remained in business until the late 1970s. The Neptune Society purchased the building from the family before the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Constructed of heavy stucco on wood frame, the building style is Mediterranean, with Second Empire Venetian characteristics. Both the facade's concrete motif of and interior ceiling are decidedly Venetian in origin.

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1992 Annual Report  
in this Issue.  
See page 3.

## Why Save the Weir Building?

Bill Zavlaris

*Editor's Note: On March 2, the San José City Council, despite vigorous and spirited presentations by local preservationists, voted unanimously to deny landmark status to the Weir Building, paving the way for the Redevelopment Agency to demolish the building. We publish this article to remind us all of a part of our urban landscape that we will lose.*

This question is at the heart of any discussion involving development of the site bordering East Julian Street between North First and North Market Streets in downtown San José. After all, the detractors claim; it is not historically aged like a Victorian residence or historically linked to any important local event such as being a first schoolhouse.

What these critics fail to note in their assumptions of historic cultural importance is that significance in architectural design is itself a primary criteria. And in this respect, the importance of the Weir Building cannot intelligently be refuted. After all, it represents a very unique and rare architectural form designed by a major regional practitioner of a distinctive style.

The design is a particularly American hybrid whose origins rest with one of the most original architects that western cultural design has ever produced—Frank Lloyd Wright. No American architect approaches the

worldwide acclaim and reverence as Wright who, like Aaron Copeland and Samuel Barber in music, developed an architectural style that both distinguishes and defines a unique American perspective. Not only did Wright engender a new aesthetic, but he also encouraged disciples in his two schools, Taliesin and Taliesin West, who carried on his ideas decades after his death.

It is from the western school, Taliesin West in Arizona, that two prominent students of Wright, Wesley Peters and Aaron Green, emerged to design distinctive structures of their own using Wright's aesthetic vocabulary.

San José is fortunate to have two buildings by these two distinguished architects: Peters' Center for the Performing Arts and Green's earlier Weir Building. Both structures exhibit features that are characteristically Taliesin (which is from Frank Lloyd Wright's later design period) in the horizontal massing of the flat roofs, the curved walls, the decorative use of metal piping, the desert-influenced coloration, the curvilinear entryways, and the imaginative placement of fenestration. Any reputable student of American architectural history would recognize the features that connect these structures to a specific time, place, and aesthetic perspective. Clearly, neither

*Continued on center insert*

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## New Members Added to Preservation Action Council Advisory Board

Our advisory board is a non-policy group made up of knowledgeable members of the community who provide assistance to us through advice and suggestions. We greatly value the contribution they make to the Preservation Action Council.

We recently added two new members to our advisory board: Franklin Maggi and Edward Janke.

### Franklin Maggi

Franklin Maggi was approved for our advisory board at the February board meeting. A San José native, Franklin's ancestral heritage is linked to the Native American, Spanish mining, and Italian horticultural periods of our valley's history. Franklin grew up in downtown San José and became active in community issues as a student government leader in high school. Even in high school, he demonstrated an interest in preservation by advocating the preservation of a cornerstone from the original high school that he and fellow students found had been neglected.

He was received his education in architecture with a focus on urban design at the University of California, Berkeley.

After receiving a Bachelor of Architecture degree he returned to San José and became a land planner for the city. As an officer of the city employees' union, he negotiated salary contracts, and represented employees on the Central Labor Council of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.

More recently, historic preservation has been his focus. He has served as president of the San José Historic Landmarks Commission, and is a

continuing member of the commission, where he serves on the Downtown Working Review Committee and the Fox Theatre Advisory Committee. He is currently President of the Heritage Council of Santa Clara County, a countywide network of history museums, associations, commissions, and resource centers.

When Franklin worked for the Planning Department of the city of San José, he reviewed designs for development projects and other activities. He became a policy analyst for the office of Councilman Jim Beall, then a plan administrator for the Municipal Employees Legal Trust Fund. He was also a facilities manager for the Willow Glen Gardens Homeowners Association, Inc., and is currently a construction analyst for the Martin Mieger Construction firm.

Franklin has served as a co-chairman of the José Theatre Task Force for the Preservation Action Council. We know we will rely on him greatly for his advice. Welcome, Franklin!

### Edward Janke, A.I.A.

Edward Janke, A.I.A., was approved for inclusion on our Advisory Board at our February Board meeting. With over 21 years experience as an architect, Ed has been active in many architectural, design and planning projects. At his own firm, Janke and Associates, he directs the design functions and oversees the management and operations of the firm. His firm has completed over twenty projects in the past two years, including site design, feasibility studies, single family residential, multi-family residential, commercial food service design, and recreational design studies.

Ed has worked as a designer on major projects with Skidmore, Owings and Merrell at both their San Francisco and Washington offices. As project

manager at Harry Weese and Associates, Ed worked on the \$210 million Northeast Corridor High Speed Rail Project, involving twelve railroad stations between Boston and Washington, D.C. He has been president of the San José Historic Landmarks Commission; has been active in the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the AIA; and has contributed to numerous civic organizations.

Ed has expressed excitement about working with our group and we are delighted to have him serve on our advisory board. Welcome, Ed!



## Annual Planning Retreat Scheduled for May 2

The Preservation Action Council will hold its annual planning retreat on Sunday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Casa Grande (or Club Almaden or Old Opry House as some call it). All members are welcome to take part in this very important meeting to plan and strategize our organization's activities and direction for the coming year. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch.

To reach the Casa Grande, take Almaden Expressway south past Camden to Almaden Road. (Look for the "New Almaden 2 1/4 Miles" sign.) Turn right on New Almaden and go 2 1/4 miles to the Casa Grande (on your left).

We are pleased and excited to have our planning meeting at this historic site, part of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Built by Francis Meyers in 1854 and originally planned as a hotel, the Casa Grande became the residence for company managers. The five-acre site was formally landscaped with lawn, flower gardens, and shrubs bordering the Alamos Creek from which water was diverted to create a manmade lagoon.



## From the President

### Annual Report, 1992

*Karita M. Hummer*

Note: The following annual report of the Preservation Action Council of San José was presented at the annual membership meeting on January 18, 1992.

1992 was a year of very solid accomplishment for the Preservation Action Council of San José and it was a very busy year.

The activities of the Preservation Action Council have been recorded in our newsletter and agendas quite fully, so I will present only a brief summary here.

#### **José Theatre**

Very early in the year, a José Theatre Task Force was formed, headed by Gary Parks and Franklin Maggi. In addition, Scott Montoya, Linda Larson, Keith Watt, and Karita Hummer also served on the committee. Eventually, April Halberstadt, Patti Massey, and Lisa Goebel joined the group to prepare an ambitious proposal to the National Trust for technical assistance under their Community Initiated Development program for the José Theatre and surrounding block.

Early efforts were aimed at finding a tenant, showing the building owners our interest and support, and encouraging a solution in the city. We were delighted to learn of Teatro Campesino's interest in tenancy in the building and have been solidly behind their efforts to make it happen.

The proposal, though it was not funded, has helped us focus our attention on what our role could be for the building and the other contributing structures in the Historic Commercial district in the remainder of the block.

#### **Seismic Retrofit Task Force and Workshop**

A major effort was undertaken for several months in organizing a Seismic Retrofit Workshop for building owners and tenants. The workshop was held on March 21 at Eulipia Restaurant, thanks to the generosity of the owner of Eulipia, Steve Borkenhagen.

Peter Fenerin very successfully chaired the event in which well over 50 people attended, including building owners, tenants, engineers, contractors, preservationists, architects, and city officials. A decision tree displaying options was designed and printed and was included with a handbook on resources, edited by Linda Larson, for each participant.

Members of the task force included Peter Fenerin (Chair), Betty Antrim, Jim Arbuckle, Rene Cortinaz, Frank Guyre, April Halberstadt, Karita Hummer, Linda Larson, and Craig Mineweaser.

#### **Bernal-Joice Ranch**

Early in the spring, the Bernal-Joice Ranch Community Task Force was formed to save the Bernal-Joice Ranch in the Santa Teresa area, which is rich in history from Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and American periods.

Paul Bernal chairs this task force which includes representatives from IBM, the Ohlone Indian Tribe, the Santa Teresa Golf Course, PG&E, Rancho Santa Teresa Pueblo Association (neighborhood), New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum Associa-

tion, Mexican Heritage Corporation, Sourisseau Academy (SJSU), Los Fundadores, Mission Santa Clara (SCU), Veterans GI Forum, Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and the National Park Service.

The goals include securing the premises, finding a tenant appropriate to the history and neighborhood, and promoting a living history museum for tourists and schoolchildren. We have taken a very active position in advocating for the protection of one of the most historic parts of the old ranch (now privately owned) that is the site of a major Indian burial ground, the site of one of the original ranch adobes of the Bernal family, and for a number of very historic trees. We have testified, urged an environmental study and urged that the site be protected for public use. (Much of the rest of the old ranch buildings are on public land in Santa Teresa Park.) We held a major tour of the ranch for our membership and community representatives at the end of August.

#### **Trinity Office Center**

Throughout the early months of the year, a major controversy ensued involving the Trinity Office Center, which would shade the St. James Park Trinity Cathedral, a Gothic Revival building, for significant periods in the year.

Because the new development appeared to us to be out of scale and insensitive to the historic context of the St. James Park Historic District, we testified at hearings and publicized the plight of the church — all to little avail. Only the most minor changes were made. However, the controversy did establish the need for more careful consideration of historic buildings in the context of new development, a consideration that was reflected in the

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new downtown zoning ordinance that was approved by the San José City Council in recent months.

#### **River Street Historic Area**

The River Street historic area, found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, received a great deal of our attention throughout 1992.

We have been in communication and have met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and with state and local officials. We have set about educating the public and community representatives, and are focusing now on the possible development of an exhibit and lecture program to promote a resolution for the district, which will be altered for the Army Corp's Flood Control project. Subject to Section 106 provisions of the Historic Preservation Act, the district required the Army Corps of Engineers to very carefully consider the options for mitigation.

Mid-year we became a concurring signatory to a Memorandum of Agreement that also included agreement signatures from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The agreement includes essential elements for an Alternatives Analysis that will consider all options for the buildings that must be removed from the district, will consider examples of other cities that have found solutions for such preservation problems, and will consider the marketability of the buildings.

#### **Transportation Law Enhancements Program: Destination Cities Project**

In June, we organized a community group of public agency and private non-profit group representatives from throughout the county to review the National Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act's (ISTEA) enhancement provisions, and to

consider how and if we might explore proposals for preservation enhancements for our area.

The act encourages grassroots efforts and public participation in developing proposals that would ultimately be submitted to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, designated by Caltrans to be the region's designating body for the approval of ISTEA Enhancement funds. Several historic preservation projects will be submitted in the first phase of funding as a result of this Ad Hoc group's efforts. We have dubbed our effort: Destination Cities.

Preservation Action Council board of directors member participants have been Marvin Bamburg, Kitty Monahan, and Karita Hummer, and Advisory Board Member, Paul Hummer. A number of members of the Preservation Action Council have also been contributors to the work of the group. Representatives from Santa Clara County, the cities of San José, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Campbell, the Heritage Council of Santa Clara County, the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the Santa Clara Valley Railroad Association and the South Bay Historical Railroad Association have actively participated in the development of projects for funding. Both Caltrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission have been very helpful by encouraging us in our efforts and by providing very helpful information.

Over several million dollars in enhancement funds are ultimately expected for this area over a six year period.

#### **Annual Historic Area Open House**

The Open House at San Pedro Square, chaired so ably by Nancy Newlin and Sharon Heinrichs, was a major undertaking that took great planning

and attention to detail in its execution. The event is our major educational and community relations event of the year, which also brings in members and funds to the organization.

This year's high-quality event featured the Fallon House and the Peralta Adobe buildings, many establishments along San Pedro Street and a lovely patio behind D.B. Cooper's and the Lyndon Building. An original framed drawing by Jeffrey George was on auction and our Preservation Action Council awards were announced and displayed. There was an excellent photo preservation exhibit arranged by Nancy Newlin with Scott Hinrichs' photos and another beautiful exhibit by Gabriel Ibarra of his photos of important buildings of downtown.

We are indebted to Nancy Newlin and Sharon Heinrichs for this major organizing task; to Linda Larson and April Halberstadt for conducting historic research and for writing the program; to Greg Casella for a beautiful and delicious reception table; to Josie Filarca for program cover, poster and ticket design which featured a drawing by Jeffrey George; to Betsy Mathieson for training the docents and to April Halberstadt for assisting her; to Pat Kirk for photos for the program; to Nancy Newlin and Paul Bernal for organizing the awards; to Patti Massey and Marti Wachtel for the Media kits and contacts; to Robin Bigger for organizing the mixer and raffle following the Open House; to Betty Antrim for tickets sales and coordination; to John Lusardi of the Redevelopment Agency and to former City Councilmember Judy Stabile and to Judi Henderson of her office for making it possible for us to have the Fallon House on the tour and for guiding people through it; to the San José Historical Museum for making it possible for us to be in the Peralta Adobe; to Yolanda Borbon for Office Management assistance; to Lisa Goebel for docent organization; and to

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## Why Save the Weir Building?

*Continued from page 1*

building is of minor import in the ever evolving panoply of American architectural design.

A second answer to the question of why save the Weir Building is because it basically enhances San José's urban landscape as well as makes a statement about this city's recognition and valuation of quality design.

In a city with myriad blocks of undistinguished commercial architecture and even more noticeable empty gaps (caused by parking lot construction and leveling buildings without replacing them), destroying an architecturally significant structure sends yet another negative message to the community at-large. Downtown San José has had more than enough of the outmoded redevelopment techniques of the 50s and 60s which misguidedly attempted to wholesale replace the aged center city rather than build upon it. Very important links were lost so that oftentimes more recent residents are totally surprised to find out that San José once had a vibrant and visually interesting downtown.

Too much of what was good in the central core was destroyed in the hopes of developing a "new city." For example, Park Center stood derelict for almost ten years before the current development occurred. By that time, the link that had connected activity to downtown had been broken. The patterns shifted to the current strip commercial activity spread helter-skelter throughout the Valley. In addition, the visual layers that add interest and stability to established communities like San José had also been damaged. Huge gaps in architectural heritage had been allowed to occur. Gone are the great Italianate buildings of the 1870s and the period

revival commercial buildings of the turn-of-century. San José's asset is its age and stability. It is not some instant city or crossroads suburb. It has always been the urban heart of the South Bay.

To deny this history with its layers of architecture from every period is to ignore a factor that distinguishes the community from nearby rivals, which were little more than villages until the mid-20th century. Recognition of downtown San José's historical importance must be reflected most significantly in its urban form. Special care must be made to recognize the most important buildings from every period in the city's development. The new should be allowed, and even encouraged, as infill rather than wholesale replacement. Traditionally, this is what makes a memorable city center.

Even in its current state, the Weir Building, set amid the rubble of former brick warehouses, exhibits a refinement and dignity that adds to the urban fabric. The location at a northern gateway also provides a prominent landmark for all entering the city along North Market Street.

Additionally, the building provides a very appropriate use for its location. Used as law offices, the site is only two blocks from the County Courthouse and Superior Courts Building. Attorney John Hopkins, a partner in the firm, has known the structure from its inception as a partner in the firm, and he made it clear that the office space was very unique and provided the most pleasant offices that he had ever experienced. Its use and form therefore is exactly what should be planned for the area.

The high quality of the building's design could be used as a reference point for the planned development at the surrounding site. As opposed to leveling all traces of the existing

structures, a more site-sensitive plan would use the colors, shape, detail, and ornament of the Weir Building as a starting point for the rest of the project. The huge planned development could thus promise a unique look, which would set it apart from other similar projects throughout the city. Instead of being considered a hindrance, the Weir Building should be considered a germinating point for the new construction.

In summation, retention of the Weir Building appears to be a win-win situation whereby the city can save a significant piece of architectural design, make a statement about San José's urban sophistication, and counteract the notion that downtown is an area of empty lots, while establishing a use and style from which a prominent new project could emerge. In answer to the question of why retain this building, there are four basic reasons:

1. It is significant architecture.
2. Retention shows a positive urban design ethic in the city.
3. High design could act as a reference point for unique new development.
4. Existing use is the best for the location, and would give instant viability for the new development.





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Pat Vaughn for editing the program. A monumental effort, this was a project that set a new standard for us.

### **Weir Building**

Starting in July, we became involved in examining the Weir Building, designed by Aaron Green of the Taliesen Group of Architects, which was threatened with demolition.

In the latter part of the year, we testified two times, organized a petition, and have since met with representatives of the Redevelopment Agency and Sobrato Development Companies regarding the fate of the building. One of the few buildings of direct Wrightian influence, it's a major asset to be saved for San Jose, and we've made a substantial contribution to ensuring that it is saved.

### **Continuity Newsletter and Public Relations Exhibits**

Throughout the year, we have had great newsletters, with Nancy Newlin doing an outstanding job as editor. With good stories, news and features, good graphic design, and good photos, the newsletter, *Continuity*, presents a very good image to the community.

The Preservation Week edition with its gargoyles of San José, a photographic essay by Scott Hinrichs, was a great inspiration of Nancy's. Similarly, Nancy's exhibits of our projects and Preservation themes have been of very high quality, graphically and educationally, and have gone a long way in heightening public awareness of the significance of preservation and architecture for San Jose.

### **Landmarks of the Future**

We have begun to make substantial forays into the area of new architecture, as a focus, and we call this thrust,

"Landmarks of the Future." Chuck Volwiler heads this endeavor by recommending publications for sale at the San José Museum of Art and by beginning to make inquiries regarding the proposed site of IBM downtown, at San Carlos and Almaden.

Similarly, in addition to our concern about the Weir Building at the Keystone Housing site, we have expressed concern about the early schematic designs for the overall Keystone Housing development. As always, our concerns about new sites have to do with the context of the new buildings and about the aesthetic standards achieved by the designs of new buildings. Our aim is to encourage outstanding architecture, worthy of Landmark status in the future.

### **Our Office**

Mid-year our office was opened in the old Knights of Columbus building downtown.

Theo Van Dyne chaired this all-out effort to ready our office for opening. Now a volunteer office manager and a second volunteer staffs the office (part-time), and Elizabeth Cooney is organizing efforts to establish a resource center and library in the office.

### **Watchdog Activities**

Our watchdog activities, under the chairpersonship of April Halberstadt, are as busy as ever, with calls coming in every month about very significant buildings under threat of demolition, either directly or by neglect.

We involve ourselves in a variety of ways on behalf of these buildings. As noted above on the Keystone Housing site, in a similar way, we monitor proposed developments in the city, and in a constructive way, make suggestions for both preservation and

good design. A good example of this is the Midtown Plan, that April participated in as a representative of our group, and for which she provided extensive input and commentary.

### **Organization Support**

If that's not all, we did many other things throughout the year to better serve our membership and to strengthen the organization.

We held membership events, sponsored special presentations at meetings, participated in grass roots fundraising efforts (such as a walk-a-thon, a rummage sale, and a great raffle) held exhibits throughout the year to attract new members and volunteers, and held a reception for advisory board members.

### **Many Thanks**

That's a long list of activities for an all volunteer organization. Tremendous thanks go to all the chairpersons and committee members who made all these accomplishments possible.

Special note should be made of Paul Bernal (Vice-President and Bernal-Joice Ranch), Greg Casella (Treasurer, Finance and Operations), Patti Massey (Community Relations), John Mitchell (Fundraising) and Robin Bigger (Fundraising), and April Halberstadt (Co-chair of River St., Watchdog Chair, Jose' Theatre grantwriting endeavor, and so many other activities), Theo Van Dyne (Operations), Nancy Newlin (newsletter, Open House, Graphics and Exhibit Designs and so many activities), Sharon Heinrichs (Open House), Gary Parks and Franklin Maggi (Co-chair of José Theatre Task Force), and Peter Fenerin (Seismic Retrofit Task Force).

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And these are just a few of the people who provided leadership to make all our activities happen this past year.

Many thanks to everyone for making so much happen on behalf of preservation and architecture.

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## Preservation Action Council Elects New Board Members

Within the past two months, the Preservation Action Council elected two new members to its board of directors: Gary Parks and Chuck Volwiler.

### Gary Parks

Gary Parks was elected to the board at the January board meeting. Gary is an architectural art glass designer and consultant for Designer Glass and Doors in Mountain View. He still finds this position creatively challenging, even after five years. His job provides an ideal opportunity for him to blend two of his primary loves: drawing and architecture.

For the past decade, Gary has maintained a keen interest in theatre and put this interest to practical use in 1984 when he produced promotional artwork for cultural events held at the Fox Theatre in Watsonville. After moving to San José in 1989, Gary became involved in creating historical and promotional displays for the Fox California Theatre, where he also frequently serves as a docent. He joined the Preservation Action Council of San José in 1991, and became the council's liaison to the Fox California Theatre Advisory Board of the Redevelopment Agency. He later co-chaired the José Theatre Task Force. His concerns for the Fox and the José are that future renovation plans respect as close as possible the original design of both buildings.

Gary also is a member of the State Theatre Preservation Group, which aims to eventually restore the State Theatre, a movie palace in Monterey. The group is currently installing a Wurlitzer pipe organ into the theatre. Gary is also a member of the Theatre Historical Society of America, frequently contributing theatre memorabilia to their archives.

Gary advocates historic preservation because he believes that the built environment has just as much impact on society as the natural one, and a that rich aesthetic tradition visible to all makes for a healthier culture. We are very fortunate to have Gary on the board. He has already been contributing a lot on the José Theatre Task Force as co-chair, has a very strong interest in the former First Church of Christ, Scientist Task Force, and is planning to provide us with some design scenarios of the River Street historic area. With his artistic talent, knowledge of architecture and great love of historic theatres and old buildings, our board will be greatly enhanced. Welcome, Gary!

### Chuck Volwiler

Chuck Volwiler was elected to the Board during the February board meeting. Chuck is very knowledgeable about architecture, an art form to which he is very devoted. He has a strong love of architecture in general, and a specialized knowledge and interest in regional architecture. He feels a growing passion and civic pride in San José, and is very excited about the aesthetic future it holds as the cultural hub of Silicon Valley. He is excited about the role that citizens can play to contribute to the emergence of a city that could be known for its quality design and visual interplay of the best of old and new architecture. He believes that citizens must promote these goals in responsible ways, taking the time and effort

to examine options and alternatives for preservation and design challenges.

Because San José has so few remaining examples of its great old architecture, he believes it is essential to hold on to what we have to the best extent possible. He is equally concerned that the city aspire to the best in new architecture for its new development. Toward that end, he has been chairing the Preservation Action Council's Landmarks of the Future program, which is focusing on new site developments for the city and on educational programs to promote awareness of contemporary design issues.

As a businessman, Chuck sees that preservation and exciting new designs are good business, because these are elements that attract businesses to San José.

Chuck studied marketing at Santa Clara University and, not long after graduating, started a whole product line for a new computer company, De Volk Company. From there, he went on to found a telecommunications company called HELLO DIRECT, which manufactures some of its own products, sells other products, and produces a catalogue of telecommunications products. His company has been forming very significant marketing alliances, and is a very successful operation. Chuck's interests and talents will greatly contribute to our efforts. He is most welcome.

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**Preservation Week**  
May 9 - 15

Look for special  
articles in the  
May/June issue of  
*CONTINUITY*





## Watchdog Report

April Halberstadt

The Watchdog Committee of the Preservation Action Council keeps an eye on historic buildings that may be threatened by insensitive rehabilitation, demolition, or neglect. The projects we are currently tracking include:

- Advocates for the Homeless has taken over some houses on *River Street*. They will be allowed to rehabilitate one of them under a special agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Housing for Independent People.
- The 1910 landmark building belonging to the "*We and Our Neighbors*" Club, one of the oldest women's clubs in California, is in need of attention. The building is located at the corner of Union Avenue and Los Gatos Boulevard. Contact City Councilmember Jim Beall if you have comments.
- The *Joyce Martini House*, located on Autumn Street, which was scheduled for demolition has been spared by the Redevelopment Agency and will not be demolished to make way for arena parking.

For more information about watchdog activities, contact April Halberstadt at (408) 293-2860.

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For membership information, call our office, (408) 947-8025.

## Clyde Arbuckle to be Honored by Reception on April 13

Friends of Clyde Arbuckle will honor his contributions to local education and preservation and celebrate his 90th birthday at a reception in his honor on April 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. in Fiesta Hall on the grounds of the Santa Clara County fairgrounds. The cost is \$25 per person which includes \$10 towards a Clyde Arbuckle Scholarship Fund. Light food and beverages will be served, and a full no-host bar is available.

Friends are invited to write a short paragraph relating an anecdote, a memory of Clyde, or share a way in which he has helped create, foster, or nurture your interest in history. Photographs are also welcome to be included in a panel to be titled "Walking Though History with Clyde."

Make your check payable to Argonauts Historical Society and mail no later than April 1 to Jewel & Lyn Bean, 1641 Carmel Drive, San Jose, CA 95125.



The Preservation Action Council of San José 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.

## Cherilyn Widell to Speak at April Open Board Meeting

Cherilyn Widell, board member of the Preservation Action Council, recently returned from a year-long trip to Japan as a Fullbright scholar. She will talk about her studies and involvement with Japan's preservation efforts at the April 19 open board of directors meeting at Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th St., beginning 7:00 p.m.

A private consultant in historic preservation and rehabilitation, Cherilyn is known nationally for her work in preservation. She has testified before Congress and served at the request of the Secretary of the Interior on the Commission to Review Criteria for Placement on the National Register of Historic Places. She has recently begun developed an interest in cultural conservation as an addition to her interest in preservation.

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For information on upcoming events, see the Calendar on page 8.

### Board of Directors

Karita Hummer, President  
 Paul Bernal, Vice President  
 Greg Casella, Treasurer  
 Bonnie Bamburg  
 Marvin Bamburg, A.I.A.  
 April Halberstadt  
 Sharon Heinrichs  
 Tom King  
 Linda Larson  
 Betsy Mathieson  
 Patti Massey  
 Craig Mineweaser, A.I.A.  
 Kitty Monahan  
 Scott Montoya  
 Gary Parks  
 Theo Van Dyne  
 Chuck Volwiler  
 Keith Watt  
 Cherilyn Widell

### Advisory Board

Clyde Arbuckle  
 John C. Bondi  
 Lawrence Bryan  
 Joan Corsiglia  
 Jack Douglas  
 Susan Hartt  
 Judi Henderson  
 Alan Hess  
 Paul Hummer  
 Edward Janke, A.I.A.  
 Jerome King, A.I.A.  
 Franklin Maggi  
 Edwin Mosher  
 David Pandori  
 John Pinto  
 Leonard C. Ramirez  
 Gil Sanchez, F.A.I.A.  
 James A. Salata  
 James C. Williams

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## Calendar

### March

- 8 (Monday) Executive committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940.
- 10 (Wednesday) José Theatre task force meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:30 p.m., (408) 971-0940.
- 15 (Monday) Open board of directors meeting. Neptune Society, 798 South Second Street, 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940. (See separate article.)
- 22 (Monday) Finance and operations committee meeting at our office, 40 N. First St., 8 p.m. Greg Casella, (408) 998-5034.
- 31 (Wednesday) Community relations committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:30 p.m., (408) 971-0940.

### April

- 12 (Monday) Executive committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., 971-0940.
- 13 (Tuesday) Reception for Clyde Arbuckle. (See separate article.)
- 19 (Monday) Open board of directors meeting. Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th St., 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940. Cherilyn Widell is guest speaker. (See separate article.)
- 28 (Wednesday) Community relations committee meeting. Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., (408) 971-0940.

### May

- 2 (Sunday) Annual planning retreat. (See separate article.)

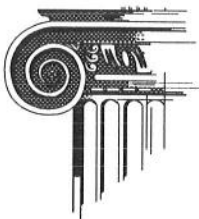
### June

- 3 - 6 California Preservation Foundation's preservation conference in Long Beach. (510) 763-0972.

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