



CONTINUITY

Newsletter of the Preservation Action Council of San José

Volume 4, Number 6, December 1993

Penny-Rolling Party Fundraiser Planned

Karita Hummer

Come join in the fun! On Sunday, December 5, 6:00 p.m. at Hochburg von Germania, 261 N. 2nd, (408/295-4484) we will be having a holiday fundraising party. Hochburg von Germania has donated the use of their large German Hall for the event; which will be a buy-your-own-beer and, if you like, buy-your-own-food event. Karita Hummer is chairing the event. (If you plan to order some food, you should let Karita (408/971-0490) know ahead as the restaurant wants to have enough staff on hand to accommodate the food for our guests. Otherwise, you can just order beer at the bar.)

Please bring the pennies you've been accumulating to the event, roll them with bank papers that will be provided, and by all means, donate the penny rolls to the Preservation Action Council as a tax-deductible contribution. You can also bring your friends' and relatives' accumulated pennies for the same purpose. (Better yet, invite your friends and family to come to the event themselves, and bring their own pennies!)

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Also, if you can't come, but have pennies to donate, get them to Karita Hummer or Greg Casella (408/998-5034).

We are very grateful to Hochburg von Germania for continuing to support our efforts and for making their beautiful space available to us.

Mark this Date for Fun!

Bonnie Sublett

Sunday, February 13 is the date of the Preservation Action Council of San José Tea Dance. This wonderful celebration will be held at the San José Athletic Club from 4 to 7 p.m.

It will feature delightful dance music, surprise entertainment, delicious hors d'oeuvres, finger sandwiches, coffee, tea, and a no-host bar.

The tea dance will also serve as the occasion for presentation of the annual preservation awards. All of this for only \$17 per person. Plan to join the festivities at the San José Athletic Club on February 13.

Tickets to this festive event would make unique Christmas gifts for friends and business associates. To purchase tickets contact event coordinators Betty Antrim (408/448-2165) and Bonnie Sublett (408/224-1815), or Karita Hummer (408/971-0940).

Japantown Chosen for Open House

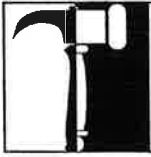
Karita Hummer

Our annual open-house will be in Japantown, and we will be cosponsoring the event with the Japantown Business Association. It will be on the first or second Saturday in May, and will be part of Preservation Week events which we have co-planned and will be coordinated with the San José Historical Museum, the Victorian Preservation Association, and the Heritage Council of Santa Clara County.

We will be highlighting both cultural and architectural aspects of the historic area of Japantown. We will feature the Nishioka Building, the little Leaning Building, the produce sheds at Taylor and 8th, the Cuban Restaurant, the Lawyers Building on Taylor, the Buddhist Temple, the Issei Memorial Building, San José Chiropractic building, the old Aikido Building, Wang's Restaurant, George's Service Station, and Dobashi Grocers. We hope to have exhibits, music and a reception.

Plans are just getting underway. A committee is being formed of members of the Japantown Business Association, and our own members.

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From the President

Karita Hummer

The City's Preservation efforts have been reduced as a result of the summer's budget cuts, as reflected in diminished resources for the Landmarks Commission and the ensuing reductions in their activities.

We need to take notice. What does it mean for preservation in the city? The all important work of the Historic Landmarks Commission is being impeded in many ways.

For example:

- The Landmarks Commission now meets on alternate months, instead of on a monthly basis. Result: The volume that now comes before the Commission is greatly reduced.
- There is no staff to do research and appraise items for the Commissioners' review, i.e., no new landmarking can occur. Result: New projects cannot even be brought to the attention of the Commission.
- Updating the Historic Preservation ordinance has been completely derailed. Result: Improvements in the law for both owners and for the public good cannot be introduced to City Council.
- Certified Local Government status has been put on hold, partly due to the lack of a new historic preservation ordinance. Results:

The city is not eligible for funding to help conduct some of the preservation work of the city, such as money for survey work; Landmarks Commissioners are not included in training available to other commissions in cities with Certified Local Government status; The city gets less recognition.

It should be noted that there are efforts by the City Council's liaison to the Landmarks Commission, Margie Fernandez, to rectify some of this situation, and that her office has been cordial to us and other preservationists concerned about the situation.

Nevertheless, it is of concern just how important the City considers preservation to be.

Because of the above constraints, historic preservation has virtually ground to a halt. It appears that historic preservation is treated as a frill by the City, and not accorded its proper value for restoring economic vitality, interest and a sense of place for the community - all evidence to the contrary.

It behooves us to keep bringing the importance of historic preservation to the attention of City Council and to the community-at-large. We can cite the evidence for the value of preservation to the community. We wouldn't have to go far: Los Gatos attracts people for its historic character, so especially does San Juan Bautista, and Oakland with its Preservation Park and commercial historic district, with beautifully restored cast-iron buildings that could be the envy of any town.

We'll work on all this in the coming months. Happy holidays!

San José Athletic Club Generous to Preservation Efforts

Karita Hummer

The San José Athletic Club deserves a great hurrah and many thanks. They have really been good to us and to preservation in the city. For December 8, they have graciously donated their space for the use of the state Caltrans Advisory Council on Transportation Enhancements (including preservation) for ISTEPA for an all day meeting. (See story.) The Club will show these visitors San José at its very best.

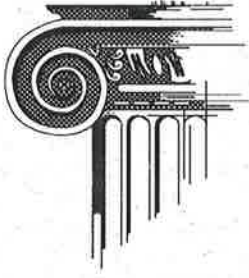
But if that wasn't enough, they are making their great banquet-dance hall room available to us for our Tea Dance and Annual Awards-Meeting on February 13 at a very nominal cost. We're on Cloud 9 with their generosity. San José Athletic Club, thanks a million!

Open House Planned

Continued from page 1

From our side, the participants who have agreed to serve on the committee are Beth Wyman, Betsy Mathieson, Leslie Masunaga, Carol Raft, Cheryl Widell, April Halberstadt and Karita Hummer. We need your help. Join us on this committee. It is sure to be an exciting event! Call Karita Hummer (408/971-0940) to see how you can help us plan and conduct this event.

Research for the project is already under way, with an intern, Jennifer London, doing historic research on most of the old buildings that will be included in the tour.



**Preservation
Action
Council**

of San José
P.O. Box 2287
San Jose, CA 95109-2287
(408) 947-8025

November 1993

Barbara and Jim Nurvel
323 S. 15th Street
San José, CA 95112

Dear friend,

Thank you for your interest in the Preservation Action Council of San José. As you know, our organization was formed to support historic preservation through education, promotion, and assistance to owners. We're sending you a complementary newsletter to familiarize you with our current projects.

Won't you join us so you continue to receive our newsletter and other benefits? We will be sponsoring an Open House tour of Japantown (members receive a discount on tickets), hosting an Awards event in conjunction with our Annual Membership Meeting in January, and participating in special activities for Preservation Week in May. We would love to have you as a member.

Your support is vital to preservation in the San José area. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Karita

Karita Hummer
President

Speaker's Bureau Underway

Ellen Garboske

Preservation Action Council of San José now offers speakers for local groups, organizations, or classes. Topics include current PACSJ preservation projects; successfully completed restoration/preservation projects; losses of important historic structures in San José; an overview of current endangered structures within San José; why preservation of historic structures and sites is important to a community; the need for community involvement in preservation efforts, and how local groups and individuals can help.

For further information, contact PACSJ's speaker's bureau coordinator, Ellen Garboske, at 408/446-5474.

Nominations Sought for PACSJ Board

Each year PACSJ seeks to spotlight outstanding contributions to the local preservation field and reward those responsible with plaques.

Both people and buildings have been recognized in the past.

This year the recipients will be acknowledged during the Tea Dance event (see related story on page 1).

If you would like to nominate a person or building for this prestigious award, contact a member of the awards committee: Betty Antrim (408/448-2165), Ellen Garboske (408/446-5474), or Karita Hummer (408/971-0940). Deadline for suggestions is December 15.

River Street Task Force Seeks Input

Karita Hummer

The River St. Task force has reviewed a preliminary seismic and safety report and will be meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers representatives and the architectural firm of Michael Garavaglia in the early part of December. Soon we will get to the really fun part when we can review and give ideas for possible uses and alternatives for the contributing structures in the historic district.

Join our Task Force for saving a piece of history for the Guadalupe River Park and downtown tapestry. Call Karita Hummer (408/971-0940) or April Halberstadt (408/293-2860).

Looking for last-minute Christmas gifts?

Give Preservation Action Council of San José memberships!

Gift of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (home): _____ (work): _____

Membership type: (circle one)

Individual	\$15	Senior (over 65)	\$10	School/Nonprofit	\$25	Small Business	\$100
Family	\$25	Contributor	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000	Corporation	\$250

Fill in the form, enclose with your check, and mail to: Preservation Action Council of San José, P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA 95109.

ISTEA Council to Meet in San José Dec. 8

Paul Hummer

The State Transportation Enhancement Activities Advisory Council will be meeting on December 8 at the San José Athletic Club. The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to consider a variety of matters concerning the Transportation Enhancement Activities program.

The meeting is being hosted by the San José Athletic Club, the Preservation Action Council of San José, and the Destination Cities Task Force.

Committee members from around the State will be attending. Also, representatives from several local governmental offices are expected to attend, including the offices of Congressman Norm Mineta, Supervisor Rod Diridon, and Mayor Susan Hammer. As an Advisory Council member, Karita Hummer, President of PACSJ, will be attending along with her alternate, Beth Wyman, a member of the Destination Cities Task Force.

In addition to its regular business, the Advisory Council will be taking a tour of the historic old Court House, now being reinforced to withstand earthquakes.

To understand the role of the Advisory Council, let it be noted that in 1991, Congress enacted the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), a six-year program. Congressman Norm Mineta played a substantial role in the passage of this legislation.

This Act defines new funding categories and planning processes for transportation projects. A component of ISTEA is the Transportation Enhancement Activities Program, a 10 percent set-aside from the Surface Transportation Program funding category.

These monies are to be used for transportation related programs and facilities involving historic preservation, pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, historic transportation buildings and structures, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, and so on.

Over the six-year life of the Act, over \$200 million in Transportation Enhancement Activities funds are apportioned to California. The Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) program requires the involvement of various entities within Caltrans, other public agencies and interested private organizations.

The Transportation Enhancement Activities Advisory Council provides a voice from public agencies and private interest groups regarding the implementation of ISTEA Transportation Enhancement Activities.

In the first wave of grants awarded in August 1993, the following projects in Santa Clara were approved:

- Railroad Museum at the Fairgrounds (Relocate roundhouse), Phase I. TEA funds: \$1,000,000.
- Grant Park Scenic Improvements. County of Santa Clara. TEA funds: \$66,000.

- Chitactac-Adams Park Center. County of Santa Clara. TEA funds: \$721,000.

- East Santa Clara Streetscape. City of San José. TEA funds: \$63,000.

- Roosevelt Park Streetscape. City of San José. TEA funds: \$101,200.

- Santa Clara Historic Railroad Depot Improvement. City of Santa Clara. TEA funds: \$35,728.

- Stevens Creek Trail and Wildlife Corridor, Reach 3, Phase II (Construction). City of Mountain View. TEA funds: \$1,000,000.

- Bay Trail Gap, Sunnyvale-Great America. Caltrans. TEA funds: \$318,000.

A second round of projects, submitted in August, are expected to be awarded in March 1994. For the third round of projects, proposals will be due in May 1995.



April Halberstadt

The Watchdog Committee of Preservation Action Council of San José keeps an eye on historic buildings that may be threatened by rehabilitation, demolition, or neglect. Every PACSJ member is an informal member of this committee, bringing items to the attention of the chair, April Halberstadt. Sometimes immediate emergency action is required, but sometimes we just keep watch.

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Watchdog

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Schellar House

The Schellar House on the San José State University campus still needs a miracle. Owner Matt Hurley is trying to sell his interest in the house and the university just wants it gone, gone, gone. But the general public keeps asking, "Why can't it be saved as a "President's House"?"

Wool Ranch

The Wool Ranch seems to have found a good interim use. Several vintage fire truck collectors are storing their rigs in the warehouse. The packing company held nine old fire trucks at last count.

Della Maggiore House

The Della Maggiore house on Delmas Avenue has gotten special attention from many visitors. Since it is now surrounded by Arena parking lots, and it is owned by the San José Water District, it's highly visible but its days are numbered. The Water District has given the elderly residents a life-estate; then all the parking lots are planned for high-rise apartments, developed by the water company.

The house received comments from recent visitors at the National Parks and Recreation Convention held here in October. Delegates from Canada said that it was wonderful to see owners hold out against Big Government ... (if they only knew).

Douglass Hall

We received a notice from Friends of Douglass Hall on the Menlo College campus. This building is a magnificent mansion, built by a cinema magnate, a beautiful, outstanding building. The Friends have won a temporary restraining order to halt demolition of this magnificent structure. The College feels that it does not want to make seismic repairs even though the building was occupied until quite recently, long after the '89 earthquake. The Friends have asked for some objective reviews. They need money and phone calls (415/324-2735). The town of Atherton should probably be called too; they would issue to demo order.

Arena Homes

We got word that at least two historic homes on Autumn Street

are being eyed for possible removal to make room for more Arena parking. (Isn't it amazing that underground parking was not a part of the Arena site plan, and that now it appears to be ever encroaching on historic districts.) The time for making this district an official city historic district is now!
K.H.

Hoover School

At Park and Naglee avenues, Hoover School is one of our most lovely historic buildings. Zoned now for housing, it is imperative that the building be protected with Landmark status and that the land be rezoned to protect the building into the future. We can't afford to let this building be endangered in any way.
K.H.



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.

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Calendar

December

- 5 (Sunday) Penny-Rolling Party, Hochburg von Germania, 261 N. Second St., 6:00 p.m., 408/971-0940.
- 8 (Wednesday) Community relations committee, Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:30 p.m., 408/971-0940.
- 13 (Monday) Executive committee at Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., 408/971-0940.
- 20 (Monday) Board of directors meeting canceled.

January

- 10 (Monday) Executive committee at Karita Hummer's, 96 Fox Ave., 7:00 p.m., 408/971-0940.
- 17 (Monday) Open board of directors meeting, our office, 40 N. First Street, 7:00 p.m.

February

- 13 (Sunday) Tea dance (see separate article), San José Athletic Club, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Betty Antrim 408/448-2165 or Bonnie Sublett 408/224-1815.

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