



# CONTINUITY

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

Summer, 2016

## COVER STORY

- 1 State Confirms WG Trestle is Historic

## PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 2 Executive Director's Message
- 3 Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act
- 5 Radar Tower Placed on Inventory
- 6 Proposal for Water Co. Site
- 7 On the RADAR
  - Gateway Tower
  - Pellier Park
  - Hangar One
  - Stephens Meat Sign
  - Park View Towers
  - Scheller House/SJSU
  - Marshall Squares
  - Montgomery Hotel

## PAC\*SJ NEWS

- 8 PAC\*SJ Hot Summer Events
- 9 PAC\*SJ Calendar
- 10 Willow Glen Walking Tour
- 11 PAC\*SJ Saturday Walking Tours
- 12 Spring Yard Sale

## PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 13 "Running Dogs" Greyhound Signs
- 16 SJ Water Company—150 Years
- 18 St. James Park Design Competition
- 19 Notable Quotable
- 20 Exploring SJ Landmarks
  - Wade Warehouse, Alviso
- 23 Membership Form
- 24 Board and Staff Roster

## State Confirms WG Trestle Is Historic



*Willow Glen  
Trestle by  
Larry Ames.*

*Photo entry  
from  
PAC\*SJ's  
2014  
Historic  
Photo  
Contest.*

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the quarterly meeting of the California State Historical Resources Commission was held at the Golden Gate Club in San Francisco. Of particular interest to San Jose preservationists, was the agenda item requesting that the Willow Glen Trestle qualify for addition to the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

On March 24, the California Office of Historic Preservation staff submitted its opinion to the Commission. William Burg, State Historian II, wrote, "The trestle is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the industrial develop-

ment of San Jose. Until the arrival of Western Pacific Railroad, San Jose and its surrounding agricultural communities had only one choice for railroad access to their community: Southern Pacific, whose near monopoly on freight traffic allowed them to dictate high rates to shippers. By encouraging Western Pacific to enter the San Jose area, the two railroads were placed in competition, and Western Pacific gained access to a major regional shipper of agricultural produce." He further added that staff supports the nomination as written and recommends "forwarding it to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places."

*(Cont'd p. 4)*

# Executive Director's Message

May was Preservation Month, a nation-wide opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate historic preservation. For us though, every month is pretty much Preservation Month as we work to educate, advocate and save San Jose's dwindling architectural heritage.



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

Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

As part of Preservation Month, the National Trust for Historic Preservation focused on the theme of *This Place Matters*. The National Trust says everyone has places that are important to them—places they care about. Places that matter. *This Place Matters* is a national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their community.

The National Trust's website proclaims that Preservation Month is an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on all the special places that are important to people. We certainly agree as we try and celebrate and promote preservation through our actions and our activities.

We shine the spotlight on special places throughout the year. One way we do that is with our ongoing Walking Tours under the leadership of Boardmember Sharon McCauley. This outstanding series of walks features local places that matter and highlights the history and architecture of our community.

You will find details about the Walking Tours and other upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although only one month is officially Preservation Month, we face preservation challenges throughout the entire year. We have featured many of those challenges in past issues of *Continuity*, our website and social media. The challenges persist as we await the final outcome for such projects as Park View Towers, and other development around St. James Park including the park itself, the reuse of the Century 21 Theater, and numerous other projects.

A special place that matters to many people is the Willow Glen Trestle. This historic, nearly 100-year-old railroad trestle has been on the City's demolition wish-list for quite some time but the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle, of which PAC\*SJ is a member and is led by Larry Ames, has worked tirelessly to save the structure.

The hard work paid off recently as the California Historical Resources Commission voted unanimously that the trestle is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It remains to be seen if the City will continue its quest for demolition or not, but the pending listing will make it more likely that the trestle will be saved.

New issues that have recently surfaced include a possible expansion of the former Montgomery Hotel in the form of a 19-story tower adjacent to the existing historic structure. This proposal is in the very early stages of review but we will be watching for additional details should the project move forward. Before PAC\*SJ takes a formal position on the proposal we will further explore the design including the building height, compatibility with the historic hotel, compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards as well as San Jose's own guidelines and policies.

Another project we are watching closely is the proposal to build a new Science Building on the San Jose State University campus. This is of special interest to us because the possible location for this building is where the historic Scheller House now sits. PAC\*SJ fought to save this building in the 1990s and will be monitoring this project to ensure the beautifully restored house is saved—again.

Information is minimal at this time but it appears the Scheller House will be relocated on campus if the project moves forward. We will inform the decision-makers so they know how

*(Cont'd p. 3)*



*Scheller House at SJSU.*

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## E.D. Message (Cont'd)

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important the house is and that it must be treated as the valuable historic resource it is.

There are additional projects in the pipeline that we are also tracking. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Please plan to join us at one or more of our upcoming events. We have a wide range of activities that promises to be fun and informative.

In closing, I want to thank two of our dedicated Board members who have recently left the Board. Josh Marcotte served on the Board for several years and was a great asset to our social media efforts. He will continue to volunteer in that area as his time allows.

Julia Howlett was a Board member for many years. The past few years she filled the important role of Secretary to the Board and kept the minutes of all Board meetings. In addition, she also served as co-editor of our newsletter, *Continuity*, and kept our website up and running.

As they leave the Board, our thanks to both Josh and Julia for their commitment to PAC\*SJ and historic preservation. ☞

**-Brian Grayson,  
Executive Director, PAC\*SJ**



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Editor: Gayle Frank

Please submit your letters, comments and suggestions to  
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## National Trust News

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### Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act

The National Trust has issued a summary of the federal Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act. The Trust strongly favors the proposed legislation and has delivered a letter to the House Ways and Means Tax Policy Subcommittee urging the adoption of the policy recommendations. PAC\*SJ has submitted its name to be added to the Trust's letter in favor of this legislation..

The Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act (H.R.3856/S.2655) makes long overdue changes to the Historic Tax Credit (IRC § 47) to further encourage building reuse and redevelopment in small, midsize, and rural communities. It also makes the rehabilitation of community projects like theaters, libraries, and schools easier while maximizing the impact of state historic tax credits.

Finally, the bill would make more historic properties eligible to use the credit by updating program requirements to reflect current industry practices. The following reforms would be the first major changes to the Historic Tax Credit (HTC) since the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

1. Creates a 30% credit for smaller deals and would be capped at Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses of \$2.5 million, approximately \$750,000 in credits.
2. Allows for the transfer of credits for certain small projects.
3. Changes the threshold to qualify for the credit of 50% of adjusted basis instead of 100% of adjusted basis, increasing the type of buildings eligible for rehabilitation.
4. Changes the amount of the depreciable basis adjustment from 100 percent to 50 percent of the amount of the HTC.
5. Special rules for dispositions of state historic tax credits.
6. Modifies certain tax-exempt use property.

In the letter, the National Trust requests that historic preservation be protected and preserved by enhancing the federal historic tax credit program, which effectively utilizes our nations' past to meet the needs of today's economy. ☞



# Trestle (Cont'd)

The presentations, pro and con, for accepting the Trestle nomination began around 3:00 PM and lasted for at least an hour. Each side was allotted twenty minutes for their presentation. Representatives speaking for the Trestle began the discussion and included Susan Brandt-Hawley, attorney for *Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle*, Larry Ames from *Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle*, and Seth Bergstein, historian and primary author of the historic text contained in the nomination application. Other supporters added a one-minute statement favoring the Trestle nomination, including Martha Heinrichs, Debra Arant, Laura Levin, Severn Edmonds, Scott Lane, Heather Lerner, Gayle Frank with PAC\*SJ and others.

A rebuttal to the opposition was delivered by Wayne Donaldson, former California State Historic Preservation Officer and Chair of the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, who eloquently stated the importance of saving the Trestle for posterity.

The Commissioners appreciated the extensive historical presentation by Seth Bergstein regarding the Trestle and agreed that it conformed to Criteria A, meaning it was historically significant at the local level.

Commissioner Elizabeth Edwards Harris, who is an architectural historian, stated that the Trestle's economic history with the agricultural and canning industry plus the connection with the residential neighborhood certainly made the Trestle's historic significance credible, and not just "nostalgic" as the Trestle opponents claimed. Harris also reflected that the less common evaluation of historic landscapes is expanding our historic points of interest.

Commissioner Alberto Bertoli, AIA, appreciated the construction of the Trestle that used local timber and its unique visual presence. He stressed that it was important to protect the Trestle.

*(Cont'd p. 5)*

*Courtesy of Larry Ames, Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle*

## WG Trestle ruled eligible for Nat'l Historic Listing



at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio in San Francisco

at the statewide quarterly commission meeting, April 18, 2016



Seth Bergstein, historian for Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle

### The State Historical Resources Commission



Cmsnr Moss Council Lynch SHPO Polanco Chair Brandes

Cmsnr McKay Cmsnr Harris Cmsnr Praetzellis Cmsnr Bertoli



Susan Brandt-Hawley lawyer for the Friends



supporting speaker: Wayne Donaldson, chair of the Nat'l Adv'sry Council on Hist. Pres.



principal speaker in opposition: Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, San Jose Dist. 6



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# Mt. Um Radar Tower Placed on Historic Inventory

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On May 10th, The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously determined that the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower is historic; it will be placed on the county's Heritage Resource Inventory! The Inventory lists those structures in Santa Clara County that meet a certain age and historical significance and is used in making development decisions, considering permits, and educating the public about Santa Clara County's historic, cultural and architectural heritage.

The Radar Tower was a crucial part of the Air Force Station on Mount Umunhum, whose prime directive was to thwart a Soviet nuclear threat between 1962-1980 during the Cold War. At the Supervisor's meeting, Robert Watts, a former Air Force radar operator, stated, "The Tower was built to withstand a nuclear blast." Isn't it ironic that it has now been presently threatened by an agency (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District) consisting of people who don't see the Tower daily and don't appreciate its significance.

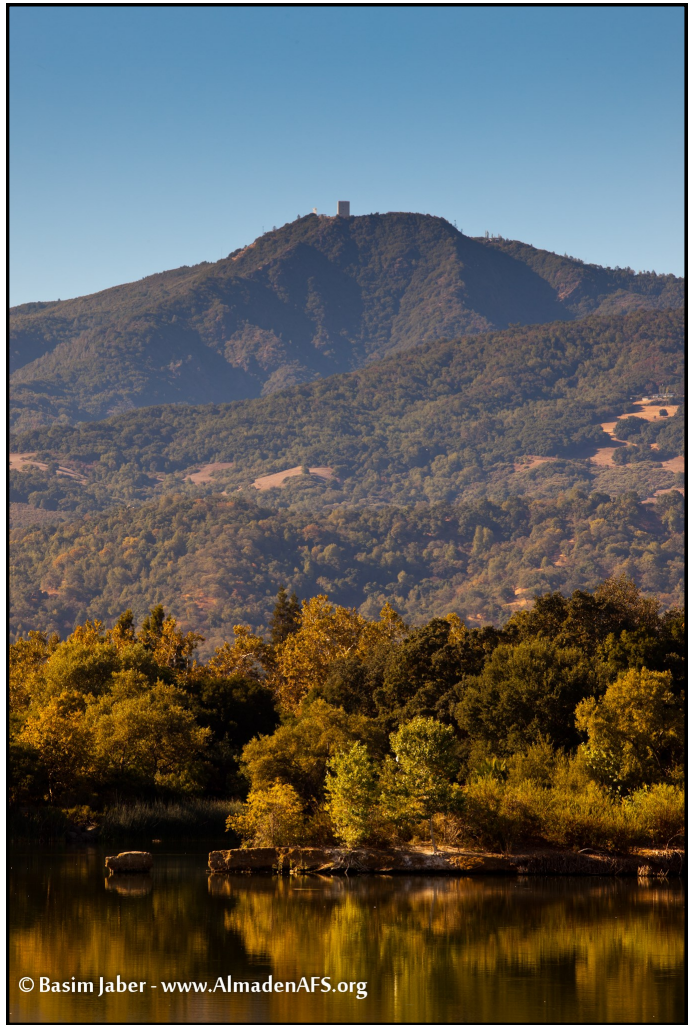
Kudos to the Santa Clara County Heritage Commission and Board of Supervisors for acknowledging this piece of our local history!

Preserving the Radar Tower will not detract from the natural beauty and breathtaking views atop Mount Umunhum and will not prevent honoring the American Indian history in the area. It will only add to the story of the mountain for visitors for many years to come.

The Mt. Umunhum Conservancy, whose leaders, Sam Drake and Basim Jaber, have worked tenaciously for years to save the Radar Tower, is still actively raising money for the preservation and restoration of the Tower. The county historic designation will aid in pursuing grants and in applying for historic designation on the National Trust and California State lists of historic resources.

To visit Mt. Umunhum Conservancy, go to: <http://umunhumconservancy.org/>. **-Gayle Frank**

See the Spring 2016 issue of *Continuity* for more pictures and information on the Radar Tower at [preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org).



*Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower at a distance taken from Almaden Lake. A Basim Jaber photo that was a finalist in the 2015 PAC\* SJ Historic Photo Contest.*

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## Trestle (Cont'd)

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After the Commissioners asked questions and discussed the issues, the vote was unanimous for accepting the nomination of the Willow Glen Trestle as eligible for state listing and then forwarding the application to the National Trust with a recommendation for accepting the Trestle as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. ☞ **-Gayle Frank**

To read the Willow Glen Trestle application for state and national designation, visit: [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1067/files/ca\\_santa%20clara%20county\\_willow%20glen%20trestle.pdf](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1067/files/ca_santa%20clara%20county_willow%20glen%20trestle.pdf).

# Project Proposed for Water Co. Historical Site

The proposed project planned for the former San Jose Water Company property on W. Santa Clara Street is called the Delmas Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project. Non-historic buildings on the land will be demolished, but the historic San Jose Water Works building will remain and the historic transformer house will be relocated on site. Construction of a mixed use development with up to 1.04 million square feet for office/retail, up to 325 residential units and an underground garage near the historic building is proposed for the site of approximately 8.9 acres.

A landscaped plaza is planned within the Historic City Landmark (San Jose Water Works) Parcel of 1.02 gross acres.

The property owner and applicant for the project is Trammell Crow Company of San Francisco.

The City of San Jose Planning Department (PBCE) has analyzed the project's application and concluded that the proposal is within the scope of the Previous Downtown Strategy EIR, Planned Development Rezoning EIR, and Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan documentation. The city staff states that this project would not add any significant environmental impacts above what was previously identified in certified EIRs.

Three buildings are proposed: two office buildings on site A, one behind the other, on the east side of Delmas Avenue. Maximum heights will be from 218 feet near W. Santa Clara Street to 265 feet near W. San Fernando Street. The estimated employee population will be approximately 3,000 employees inhabiting these two buildings. The plaza is planned in front and to the side of the north office building and adjacent to the historic San Jose Water Works building.

Site B, on the west side of Delmas Avenue, will be composed of an eleven-story residential structure with three-level underground parking garage.

The good news is that the former San José Water Company Headquarters building, a City Landmark, and eligible for California and National Registers, will remain with this proposed project. Potential impacts to this historic resource would be related to the construction of new development in proximity to the historic building. PAC\* SJ will monitor the project as it moves forward to ensure the Water Works building is protected and preserved.

**-Gayle Frank**

*For the San Jose Water Company story, see page 16.*



*Courtesy of Trammell Crow; renderings by Kilograph. Architecture by Gensler (office), HKS (residential)*

*A rendering of the Delmas Mixed-Use Project at W. Santa Clara Street.*

*The smaller SJ Water Works building is in the center foreground.*



# ON THE RADAR



## Gateway Tower

The CORE Companies' proposed development, Gateway Tower, where S. First and Market Streets meet across from Gore Park, includes plans on saving the façade and parts of the building at 465 S. First Street/470 S. Market as a tribute to Charles "Doc" Herrold (1875-1948), San Jose's pioneer radio broadcaster. The building is a city landmark and eligible for listing on the National Register. PAC\*SJ is monitoring the project and is particularly concerned whether the exhibit honoring Herrold will just be a window exhibit or if interior space will accommodate an interesting display of early radio information and artifacts.

## Hangar One/Moffett Field

To rid the extensive steel framework of toxic contaminants, Google is set to begin testing various methods, such as blasting with water, steam or copper slag. The project may take up to two years to render the frame toxic-free. Cleaning up the site is included in Google's 60-year lease with NASA. Google committed to pay more than \$1.16 billion over the length of the lease, which includes approximately \$40 billion for the rehabilitation of Hangar One. Google has not revealed their future plans for the hangar.

## Pellier Park

The current plan for the park is under review by a newly established committee. It is possible a new, revised plan will be developed by this group. Presently, the space (below) is filled with huge construction equipment—again! The realignment of Julian Street is expected to be completed by early 2017.



## Park View Towers

The project appears to be moving along as planned. Most recently some of its permits were amended, primarily regarding timing and phasing of the project.

## Scheller House

San Jose State University has proposed building a new science building on the site of the Scheller House. We have been told by SJSU they are looking at relocating the historic house somewhere on campus. We will inform the decision-makers of the importance of the house and monitor the plans to be sure the house is protected and saved—again.

## Montgomery Hotel

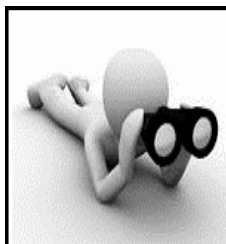
A proposal concerning the former Montgomery Hotel has been sent to the City of San Jose for a possible 19-story tall tower that is designed to partially hang over the historic hotel. The proposed structure would be built north and directly adjacent to the Montgomery Hotel, whose historic name was removed by the current owners. PAC\*SJ will be interested in the status and compliance of this proposal with the Secretary of Interior's Standard and City guidelines and policies. ☞

## Stephen's Meat Sign

We are working with the Planning Department in hopes of having the sign relocated to History Park. The sign continues to deteriorate so the sooner this can be accomplished the better.

## Marshall Squares

Initial demolition has occurred and the project is moving forward obtaining the necessary permits.



## PAC\*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—

- Century 21
- St. James Park
- Willow Glen Trestle
- San Jose Mercury Building
- Agnews Developmental Center



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# Summer is Hot with PAC\*SJ Events!

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## PAC\*SJ Members-Only Event

Reserve your spot now! On **June 11th**, PAC\*SJ is joining two of our faithful, long-term Board members in celebrating the centennial anniversary of each of their houses in Naglee Park. The two houses, belonging to Patt Curia and André Luthard, are close to each other; we will visit both beginning at 4:00 PM. Listen to a short history of each house and walk through the interiors. There will be refreshments at both homes.

Be sure to renew your membership and reserve your spot so you don't miss out on this fun event. Email [Sharon@preservation.org](mailto:Sharon@preservation.org) to sign up and add "June Member Event" in the subject line. Members may bring one guest. ☞

**WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS**

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## Ron Tanner Returns: "Renovation or Restoration?"

**June 28; 7:00 PM; History San Jose**

Author Ron Tanner returns with a slide presentation illustrating several projects he and his wife undertook while restoring an 1897 Baltimore brownstone and an early Victorian farm house. Ron was a hit when he visited us in 2012. The lecture will be held at the Empire Firehouse in History Park at 7:00 PM. Enter through the main gate on Phelan Ave.

The popularity of his book, *From Animal House to Our House*, involved Tanner with historic societies and architectural preservation groups on a national scale and, in 2013, led to

his directorship of the Preservation America Project (<http://preservationamerica.org>), an online archive that video-documents the preservation of historic buildings and houses in the U.S. The project is ongoing, will result in a book about Americans who preserve and restore historic homes and buildings, and aims to encourage "greater public awareness of local, regional, and national preservation initiatives."

In 2016, Tanner and his wife incorporated their historic farm outside Baltimore, MD as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to its preservation. They plan, beginning in 2017, to offer writer residencies at the farm. ☞

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## A Night in Old Havana

**July 14; 6:30 PM; San Jose Woman's Club**

Enjoy a Cuban Cocktail or Mocktail and nosh on Havana street food while listening to hot Cuban beats. And, of course there will be a costume contest! At 8 PM, Naglee Park resident John Pastier, Seattle design critic and former architecture critic for the LA Times, will present a slide show of Havana Architecture.

The evening is co-hosted by San Jose Woman's Club and PAC\*SJ. Tickets are \$5 for members of PAC\*SJ or SJWC and \$10 general admission. Drinks will cost \$5. To order go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/ela-night-in-old-havana-tickets-24882250481> . ☞



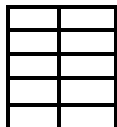
# PAC\*SJ 2016 Calendar

- Jun 11** Saturday, 4:00 PM. PAC\*SJ Members-Only Event. Centennial anniversary party for two Naglee Park homes belonging to Board members. See page 14.
- Jun 20** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Jun 25** Saturday, 10 AM. PAC\*SJ **Walking Tour** of Hanchett Park. See page 11.
- Jun 28** Tuesday, 7 PM; **Lecture, “Renovation or Restoration”** presented by author Ron Tanner Empire Firehouse at History San Jose. See page 14.
- Jul 4** Visit PAC\*SJ’s booth at the Rose, White & Blue Parade on The Alameda.
- Jul 14** Thursday, 6:30 PM. **“A Night in Old Havana”** at San Jose Woman’s Club, 75 S. 11th St. San Jose. Tickets \$5 members; \$10 non-members.
- Jul 18** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Jul 23** Saturday, 10 AM. PAC\*SJ **Walking Tour** of East San Jose. See page 11.
- Aug 11-13** PAC\*SJ Summer Yard and Salvage Sale. 260 S.13th St. To donate or volunteer, email to [donation@preservation.org](mailto:donation@preservation.org).
- Aug 15** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Sep 10** Saturday, 10 AM. PAC\*SJ **Walking Tour** of San Jose’s Little Italy. See page 11.
- Sep 19** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Oct 17** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Nov 21** Monday, PAC\*SJ Annual Meeting & Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.

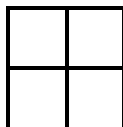
## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

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

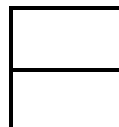
**Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!**



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



**1/4 Page**  
Single issue \$100  
3 issues \$250



**1/2 Page**  
Single issue \$200  
3 issues \$450



**Full Page**  
Single issue \$375  
3 issues \$700



# Willow Glen Walking Tour

On PAC\*SJ's second 2016 walking tour on May 14th, we strolled down Lincoln Avenue. We started at the Chase Bank building on the Minnesota corner, where Sharon McCauley pointed out the Millard Sheets mural and sculpture. Then we walked past the older section of buildings that tell the early Willow Glen history.

Along the way there were a few small houses from the early 20th century that were once common along Lincoln Avenue. Then we came to the large Buffington home and learned that Howard Buffington was an interesting character. We walked past Willow Street and saw more charming homes, the historic funeral home, and then crossed Los Gatos Creek. We visited the Willow Glen Trestle and ended at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House that sits at 770 Lincoln Avenue. Thank you Sharon McCauley for an excellent tour!



*An example of an early residence at 1292 Lincoln Avenue.*



*1346-1352 Lincoln Ave. Brown Auditorium/Adobe Hall, ca. 1930, a Spanish Eclectic commercial building. Years ago, the Masonic Hall and Arthur Murray Dance Studio were upstairs, a hardware store was on the first floor.*



Left, Garden Theater, now retail shops.

Right, on the façade of Chase Bank, a mural by well-known artist and architect, Millard Sheets.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)





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# Join Us for a Saturday Historic Walking Tour

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Don't miss out on our historic walking tours this year. Tours are only \$10 each for PAC\*SJ members and \$15 for non-members. Tour packages for multiple tours are available.

To reserve your spot on one or more walking tours, go to our website, [www.preservation.com](http://www.preservation.com). Space may be limited. For questions, email us at [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org).

## 6/25/16, 10 AM—Hanchett Park

Hanchett Park was one of the first “suburban” developments near San Jose. This walk will look at the wide variety of sizes and styles of homes in a middle class neighborhood at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



*The Col House in Hanchett Park, designed by Wolfe & Wolfe in 1912 for Peter and Blanche Col.*

## 7/23/16, 10 AM—East San Jose

Like Hanchett Park, East San Jose began as an unincorporated area, but it was a separate city for a time with separate business districts. The walk will begin at Roosevelt Park and end in Little Portugal.

## 9/10/16, 10 AM—Little Italy

The preservation of Little Italy was one of the earliest PAC\*SJ endeavors. The tour will cover both history and architecture.



*“Yellow House, Little Italy” by Agnieszka Jakubowicz. First place in PAC\*SJ’s 2015 Historic Photo Contest in the professional category.*



*“Little Italy Arch at Twilight” By Agnieszka Jakubowicz, Entry in PAC\*SJ’s 2015 Historic Photo Contest.*

# 2016 Spring Yard Sale—Splish Splash Rain

## Success Earns Dollars for Preservation Education

New to our sales events, several realtors and estate processors contacted PAC\*SJ asking if we wanted to receive the remainders from estates. You know the answer: YES!! So our merchandise this year was augmented by the treasures of those who have moved on besides Naglee Park neighbors and PAC\*SJ members. Needless to say, we had lots of merchandise for the April 21-23 sale. The weather conspired against us however, with a downpour on Friday. The Saturday crew extended the sale hours until 5PM and made up the lost day earning a total whopping \$6000.

Funny stories always pop up at the sales: a wonderful leather couch was donated by a family across the street from the sale. The new tenant in the house adjacent to the donor's bought it and carried it back across the street. Heather David, maven of all mid-century madness sold her *Bay Area Modern* playing cards at the sale. The deck features photos of many memorable South Bay buildings. Contact me to purchase them for \$12 each. They can be viewed at

[www.flickr.com/photos/14696209@N02/albums/72157664247583803](http://www.flickr.com/photos/14696209@N02/albums/72157664247583803)

Many thanks to the Leisenfelt-Wangsness, Curia, Salas, and Mason families for sharing their property for the sale. And to the Phillips family for providing a wonderful Mexican lunch on Saturday.

Special call out to Joan Bohnett who staffed the cashier table two days as well as priced merchandise the previous week. The usual suspects and several new volunteers assisted in sales and merchandising: Art Carroll, Joan Bohnett, Pat Columbe, André Luthard, Sandy Swirsky and husband Lyle, Darryl Boyd, Hugh Graham, Gayle Frank, Renee Coca, Jim Norvell, Ted Essy, Tom Aldridge, Leslie Masunaga, Bev Blockie, John Mitchell, Lisa Wangsness, April and Hans Halberstadt, Ron Hagen, Mary Lou Mason, Kristen Pendleton, Lucille Boone, Tim McAuliff, Sherry Hitchcock, Heather David, Michelle Teevan, Lynda Sereno, Gilda and John Messmer, Michael Galleto, Marilyn Messina, Heinz Boedecker, Connie Foley, Rose Van Domelen, Dennis Cunningham, and Rick Bernard. I apologize if I missed any helpers.

Many thanks to San Jose Woman's Club members who generously staffed the sale.

Unsold items were donated to local public libraries, Saver's/Hope Services, Horace Mann School, and Woman's Gathering Place, which clothes homeless or transitional women.

Tentative date for the Summer 2016 sale is August 11-13. We ask donors to save items until then. However, if you are moving or holding an estate sale, please contact PAC\*SJ at:

[donations@preservation.org](mailto:donations@preservation.org)

Donations between sales may be sold on Craigslist and searched by simply typing "Preservation Action" into the search slot of the San Francisco Bay Area site. Happy Hunting!

**Patt Curia, Donations Chairperson,**  
260 South 13th Street



Visitors having fun at the PAC\*SJ Yard/Salvage Sale.

Photo: Patt Curia



# San Jose's "Running Dogs" Soon To Retire

by Debra Jane Seltzer



*Above (rear of building) and below (front of building):  
San Jose's Greyhound Bus signs.*

The Greyhound Corporation began offering bus service in Hibbing, Minnesota in 1914. In the 1930s, the company experienced rapid growth and built Streamline Moderne stations in major cities from coast to coast. Most of these buildings featured integrated sign towers with vertical neon letters spelling out the Greyhound name. The company's canine mascot was represented in neon at the top of these signs. Fortunately, many of these buildings survive today although most now house other businesses. Greyhound continues to thrive with service to 2,700 destinations across the country.

The Greyhound bus station at 70 S. Almaden Avenue in San Jose was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and built in 1957. By the 1950s, the company's buildings were smaller and boxier in appearance. However, the company continued to feature prominent neon signs. The San Jose building features minimal mid-century modern details with greenish-blue tile and vertical ribs. Later this year, the building is expected to be demolished. Greyhound is moving to a new location and two 24-story tall residential towers will be erected on the Almaden Avenue site.

The fate of the two signs on the building is still up in the air. However, they should survive the site's transformation. The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is working closely with the property's developer. Greyhound may use one of the signs at its new location. The developer might use one of the signs in the new building's lobby. Most likely, the signs will be preserved rather than adapted.

Vintage photos show that the backlit plastic sign on the front of the building was there when the station opened. The neon sign on the back of the building was probably installed at the same time. A neon sign on the front of the building which read "Air Conditioned Post House Restaurant" is long gone.

The shape of San Jose's neon "running dog" sign is unique. If any other Greyhound signs were built with concave sides, they are all gone now. There are also

no other known neon Greyhound signs with horizontal offset letters.

The station's backlit plastic sign is also very rare. There are two identical signs on the Greyhound station in Bakersfield which was built in 1960. There are somewhat similar backlit plastic signs in Calexico, CA, Savannah, GA, Columbus, GA, and Boise, ID. Two other similar backlit Greyhound signs in Tuscaloosa, AL,

*(Cont'd p. 14)*



Photos: Debra Jane Seltzer



## “Running Dogs” (Cont’d)

and Paducah, KY, were adapted for a Dunkin Donuts and a brewery, respectively. While the signs’ shapes were preserved, the results are far from appealing.

Out of the hundreds of Greyhound stations that once had neon signs, only 22 locations still have them. Sixteen of them are still lit at night. Six of those 16 are still maintained and lit even though Greyhound no longer operates out of the buildings. In California, only the Oakland and Salinas stations still have neon Greyhound signs. However, the Salinas signs have been dark since at least 2015 when Greyhound moved to a new location.

There have been a number of recent Greyhound sign losses in California. While the building in Sacramento has been preserved, the signs were removed in 2011. The signs on the Santa Barbara location were removed around 2012 when the station closed. That building still remains vacant. The Redding building was demolished in 2013 but the neon sign was removed beforehand. The Greyhound building in Fresno relocated in 2015 and that building will be razed. There was a backlit plastic sign there identical to the one in San Jose. It’s not known if any of these signs were saved or destroyed.

*(Cont’d p. 15)*



*Photo: Debra Jane Seltzer*

*Greyhound Bus Station in Oakland – one of two operating stations with neon signs.*



*Former San Jose Greyhound Bus Station Building at 70 S. Almaden Avenue.*

*(Photo: Gayle Frank)*




## “Running Dogs” (Cont’d)

In other parts of the country, Greyhound buildings and signs have fared better. In Evansville, Indiana, the blue porcelain enamel clad station and neon sign were built in 1939. The station closed in 2007 and remained vacant until restoration work began in 2014. In October, the building reopened as a restaurant with the “Greyhound” lettering left intact - the red and blue neon is spectacular at night.

In Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Greyhound station was demolished in 2014 for a six-story hotel. However, the station’s 1940 limestone façade and neon sign were restored and reinstalled in their original positions in front of the new building. Last year, an animated neon Greyhound sign was restored in Pocatello, Idaho. The station and sign were built in 1946 and it is believed that this sign was unique. There are plans to use the building as a transportation museum.

It is hoped that the San Jose signs will find a suitable home considering their

uniqueness and rarity. The neon “running dog” panel is the only one of its type known to exist. The backlit plastic sign is one of only three which have survived.

For more photos and information about Greyhound bus stations and signs, see this section at my website: [www.roadarch.com/bus.html](http://www.roadarch.com/bus.html). 

*Debra Jane Seltzer has been documenting buildings, signs, and statues for nearly 15 years. This article, “San Jose’s ‘Running Dogs’ will be Retiring Soon,” appears on her website, [RoadsideArchitecture.com](http://RoadsideArchitecture.com).*



*Above, Greyhound Bus Station in Huntington, WV—one of two operating stations with neon signs.*

*Left, the recently restored running greyhound neon sign at Pocatello, Idaho*

*Photos: Debra Jane Seltzer (except the San Jose building photo)*



# San Jose Water Company—150 Years Strong

By Sharon Whaley

*This article highlights a historic San Jose business and its landmark building that still remains and will be reused.*

## Water: The Key to Survival and Prosperity

When Spanish settlers established the first San Jose pueblo in 1777, they constructed *acequias*. These ditches of raw water had challenges including the spread of cholera and typhoid as well as seasonal flooding and reduced flows during the summer. A safe, plentiful source of water was needed. Artesian wells were the immediate answer. Shallow wells with enormous pressure behind them were dug to access the high-quality water from aquifers.

## The San Jose Water Company Forms

Donald McKenzie, a shrewd Scotsman and foundry owner, saw tremendous opportunity in these artesian wells. Along with John Bonner and Anthony Chabot, he founded San Jose Water Company (SJWC) with \$100,000 in capital. The articles of incorporation were signed November 21, 1866, and 1,000 shares valued at \$100 each were issued.

It started with two tanks at the San Jose Foundry at First and San Antonio Streets providing water to about 400 local residents. With a 100,000 gallon capacity, the tanks were on a 50-foot wood-braced platform and dominated the skyline of growing San Jose. The first water mains in San Jose were placed along First and Santa Clara Streets.



Photo Credit: History San Jose

*In the 1800s, the original two water tanks at First and San Antonio Streets—on the site of the San Jose Foundry.*

## Tapping into the Santa Cruz Mountains

San Jose Water Company was quick to realize that a few artesian wells that were dependent on local rainfall weren't going to provide sufficient water to supply local residents and would hinder service expansion.

The Santa Cruz Mountains would be the perfect addition to the water supply picture. But first they needed a system to catch its plentiful rainfall, store it in reservoirs amid the redwoods and deliver it to customers on the valley floor. The answer was the construction of a flume to carry the waters of Los Gatos Creek from the tail race of the Los Gatos Manufacturing Company to the proposed reservoir on what's now Bascom Avenue.

From 1874-1907, expansion was the name of the game. More than 7,000 acres of watershed and four new reservoirs were brought under SJWC control. Mountain Springs Water Company was purchased in 1899 for \$20,000 cash!

However, not everything was rosy. The water rights on the east side of the valley proved problematic.

*(Cont'd p.17)*



*Water Company's flume to carry water from Los Gatos Creek.*



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# Water Company (Cont'd)

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## The Coyote Creek Battle

In 1903, SJWC had bored wells in the area to tap into water from the Coyote Creek and various smaller streams that percolated into the underground. So productive was the vast reservoir of this artesian belt that the Bay Cities Water Company, owned by prominent citizens from Oakland and San Francisco, decided that 80,000,000 gallons a day should be drained off to sell to San Francisco and Oakland. Consequently, they bought 1,500 acres of land south and east of San Jose in the Coyote watershed and proposed to build a transmission tunnel from there to Oakland.

SJWC joined valley ranchers, and, with the vocal support of the *San Jose Herald*, aggressively opposed this move. Fearful of the impact a diversion of underground water supplies would have on their orchards, several local farmers filed an injunction against Bay Cities Water Company in 1904. The Supreme Court upheld the injunction, and no water ever left the San Jose area, preserving the rights of the area to use its own water.

## Steady growth from 1907-1928

During these formative years, the company continued to develop the underground water resources by constructing new wells and pumping stations. Purchasing additional water rights along the Los Gatos Creek as well as buying smaller water companies helped fuel growth. The company faced its first drought conditions in 1913 and actively supported water conservation.

In 1916, the company's name was changed to San Jose Water Works and it took over all franchises, including the perpetual one to supply water in the city of San Jose.

## New Owner and Building

Eastern utility holding companies were purchasing water companies and other utilities across the country in 1929. General Water Works and Electric Company, from the East Coast, acquired San Jose Water Works for a selling price of \$5,100,000 for a controlling interest in the Company. The deal was finalized on October 26, 1929—three days before Black Tuesday—with no change in management.

In 1934, the first phase of San Jose Water Works' general office building was completed at 374 West Santa Clara Street, replacing the one-story structure occupied since 1888.

This building<sup>1</sup>, designed by Binder and Curtis in the Moderne and Spanish Colonial Revival styles, was designated eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and became a San Jose City Landmark in 1991. The building remained the company's headquarters until 2006 when it was sold to Adobe Systems, Inc. In 2015, the building and nearby land was purchased by Trammell Crow Co. and a capital partner. The water company building will be renovated and may be an entertainment-focused retail space. For more details on the project see page 6.

## More Decades of Growth

The company experienced its greatest period of growth in the late 1950s and 1960s, when San Jose grew from about 20 to 150 square miles in less than 20 years. New mains and upgraded facilities were installed to serve the seemingly endless new housing tracts that accommodated the booming



*Former San Jose Water Company headquarters building,  
374 W. San Carlos Street, City Landmark #57.*

population and the beginning of the shift in the Valley's economy from agriculture to high technology.

By 1960, it was clear that local water supplies could no longer keep up with the demand from customers. The Company made a long-range commitment to purchase imported water for future growth. The Santa Clara Valley  
*(Cont'd p. 18)*

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# St. James Park Design Competition

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The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) of San Jose is sponsoring a design competition to re-envision the design and use of St. James Park. A Request for Proposal to compete in a juried design competition was issued on April 22, 2016.

Qualifying entries were due by May 23. Phase I will select the top qualified candidates, who will be given \$25,000 to partially fund their proposal for Phase II. Qualifications for those selected include a valid license and certifications, recent experience—especially in an historic context, published accomplishments and awards in the disciplines of landscape

architecture, architecture or civil engineering. Winners will be selected in June.

Phase II will begin the end of June. After community input in September, the winner of the competition will be announced in October of this year. The City has introduced this design competition to ensure that the downtown area and its community needs are successfully addressed. Although the City agrees with the existing master plans for St. James Park, it is interested in exploring new ideas that may improve services to the community while maintaining the integrity of the historic designation. ☞

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## Water Company (Cont'd)

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Water Conservation District began importing water through the South Bay Aqueduct of the State Water Project in 1965.

### Upgrades and the Computer Age

During the 1970s and '80s, new and larger water mains were installed, many replacing mains over a century old and too small to meet the current and future customer demands. Automating many organizational functions with computers was also a priority. Returning to its roots, the name of the Company was changed back to San Jose Water Company in 1983.

### Effective Drought Response

Several multiyear droughts over the last 30 years have cemented the company's place as an industry leader in

conservation. After the drought of the early 1990s, the company was one of the first utilities to implement a water conservation program. Today, the program includes low-flow devices, educational materials, and complimentary water audits. A state-of-the-art no-discharge truck allows our crews to perform flushing of the water mains necessary to maintain water quality with minimal loss of water.

### We've come a long way

San Jose Water Company is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 21, 2016. What began in 1866 with three employees and 400 hundred customers has grown into a company that serves one million people with high quality, safe, and reliable water service in the greater San Jose metropolitan area.

San Jose Water Company has a long history of supporting the community in which we live, work and serve. In recognition of the community that has been central to our very existence, SJWC is making a special gift of \$150,000 to the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy to substantially complete the Children's Sculpture Walk. This fall, two new cast-aluminum sculptures will be added to the park and four additional pieces will be added in 2017. The project is well underway and we are excited to see it to completion. We look forward to serving the community for the next 150 years! ☞

<sup>1</sup> Visit [www.preservation.org/newsletters](http://www.preservation.org/newsletters), Fall-2013, pages 20-22 for more details on the SJWC building.



*East view of SJWC building, facing Guadalupe River, taken in 2013 (Gayle Frank).*

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*Sharon Whaley is a Conservation Outreach Specialist with the San Jose Water Company.*

*Photos on pages 16, 17, courtesy of SJWC.*





**CORE Congratulates  
Jim & Suzanne Salata for their longstanding  
efforts to support the preservation of our  
community's historic treasures!**

*Notable Quotable from a letter to CA State Historical Resources Commissioners*

**“In addition to solidifying a community’s past, preservation can help strengthen a community’s future. Historic structures such as the Willow Glen trestle help create vibrant, cultural downtowns that draw tourism, art, festivals, and other activities which in turn draw investment, revenue, and economic growth.”** April 15, 2016

-Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, Former Calif. Historic Preservation Officer  
Chair, National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, appointed by President Obama.

# Exploring San Jose City Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org).

## HL92-67; Wade Warehouse; 1641-1657 El Dorado Street, Alviso, San Jose

Alviso, incorporated in 1852, is one of the older towns in Santa Clara County and was expected to become a large city because it was a prime shipping point from the southern country. Consequently many warehouses were built as well as homes, hotels and stores. But the railroad arrived in 1865 causing business to drop, leaving Alviso less economically viable.

The Wade warehouse, one of the earliest brick warehouse buildings still standing in the county, is found at 6057 El Dorado Street in Alviso. The large, rectangular brick warehouse, constructed ca. 1860, has a gabled roof with a chimney on the northeast corner. The brick has been described as being "soft, field-fired brick." There are arched loading doors on each side of the building and one in front along with a normal-sized door and window. On one side of the building "H. G. Wade" is painted in black.

In 1849, Henry (also referred to as Harry) Wade and family traveled with the harrowing first wagon train to California by way of the southern route that included Death Valley. In San Bernardino County, State Registered Landmark No. 622



*Front of Wade Warehouse.*

designates the "Harry Wade Exit Route" they took that saved their lives. They had departed from Salt Lake City with the Bennett/Arcañ Party. The Wade family consisted of Henry Wade (1800-1883), wife Mary Reynolds Leach Wade (1813-1889), and their four children: Harry George Wade (1835-1911), Charles E. Wade (1838-1918), Almira Wade (1840-1907) and Richard A. Wade (1844-1923). All eventually lived and died in either Alviso or San Jose.

After arriving at Alviso, Henry went into business transporting lumber, hay, grain and other goods. *(Cont'd p. 21)*



*"Wade Warehouse at Dusk"  
by Jeremy Brodeur.*

*This was third prize winner in the adult category for the PAC\* SJ 2014 San Jose Historic Photo Contest.*



# City Landmarks (Cont'd)

Henry also operated the "American Inn" in Alviso. His son, Harry George Wade, went to work for his father, eventually building the brick warehouse and a wharf in the early 1860s. Business included transporting coal to Agnew asylum and returning with hay bales and grain sacks. Goods needed a safe and secure storage location before being transported to buyers in San Jose or San Francisco.

The Wade family also transported people and stored stagecoaches in the warehouse as well as using it for freight storage and a repair station for the stagecoach line. Chinese workers were conveyed between San Jose and Alviso for ten cents a ride. In 1928, the Wells Fargo and Company purchased a Wade stagecoach for \$500 and paraded it across the San Francisco Bay Bridge on opening day in 1936. The Wade warehouse also served as a set for several Western movies decades ago.

Next door to the warehouse the Wades lived in a prefabricated house that was delivered "Round the Horn" and constructed in 1851 by Henry Wade. It is San Jose City historic landmark No. 95. A member of the Wade family, Margaret Higgins Wade, lived alone in the house until the late 1960s, still using the wood stove in her grandfather's kitchen, even up in her nineties. ☞

- Sources: California Department of Parks and Recreation Historic Resources Form; 12/5/91, Glory Anne Laffey
- [www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMC86R\\_622\\_Harry\\_Wade\\_Exit\\_Route](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMC86R_622_Harry_Wade_Exit_Route)
  - [www.scohistory.com/scohistory/wheat-49ers.htm](http://www.scohistory.com/scohistory/wheat-49ers.htm)
  - Images of America, Alviso, Lynn Rogers and Robert Burrill
  - "When Santa Clara County Was Young," San Jose Evening News, Jun 25, 1942; "The Wades of Alviso"



State Landmark #622 on Highway 127, Death Valley.



Above: rear/side view of the Wade Warehouse.



Left, painted brick letters on side of Wade Warehouse.

# Brush Up on Your Mid-Century Architecture

How well do you know Bay Area Modernism? Test your knowledge, or play a game of Rummy, with this deck of 52 architecture cards, each featuring a modern building in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Each card suit showcases 13 buildings, which could be used as the foundation for a self-guided architecture tour. From International to Organic, from Google to Brutalism, explore some of the unique architecture of the San Francisco Bay Area.

These cards were designed by Heather David who has researched and documented the Bay Area's mid-century modern architecture for almost two decades. She is the author of the book *Mid-Century by the Bay* and has written numerous articles on historic preservation and mid-century culture. Heather is a former board member of PAC\*SJ and volunteers at some of our events. The playing cards will be for sale at our events or you can contact PAC\*SJ at [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org) to purchase. ☞



*Samples of the Bay Area Modern playing cards.*

## History San Jose

Presents

### Hands-on History: Transportation Day Sunday, June 19 @ 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Celebrate Father's Day with Dad at History San José's Transportation Day. History San José will be unveiling for the first time its newly acquired 1899 Osen and Hunt automobile – made here in San Jose and the first car ever built in California. Take a ride on an historic Horse Trolley pulled by two beautiful Clydesdales between 11:00 and 3:00pm. Then test your endurance aboard a railroad hand-car.

Visitors can also create and take home pool-noodle ponies and a unique craft using real horse shoes; go on a family "Story Walk" highlighting trains and covered wagons (be sure to dress up in pioneer duds and snap a selfie on the museum's replica covered wagon); and dawn a temporary tattoo provided by talented body art painters in honor of our current exhibit *Tattooed & Tenacious: Inked Women in California's History*. Admission: Dad, HSJ Members, and kids ages two and under – FREE. All others \$5.00.

### Valley of Heart's Delight Fundraiser Saturday, June 25 @ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

History San José's annual Valley of Heart's Delight event returns. This year we have a brand new format with the theme *Then & Now!*

You'll enjoy interactive theater experiences courtesy of Epic Immersive; music courtesy of the San Jose Jazz Boom Box; live glass blowing with the Bay Area Glass Institute; pop up exhibits featuring rare artifacts; and a "then & now" menu with old favorites and new creations by Catered Too!. Don't miss this unique experience!

To purchase your tickets or secure your sponsorship, please visit: [www.hsjavaleyofheartdelight.org/](http://www.hsjavaleyofheartdelight.org/) and click on the Online Registration box. ☞



# PAC\*SJ Membership Application

## Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the level at which you wish to join:

Individual	\$40
Family	\$55
Student or Senior (over 65)	\$25
Non-profit or School	\$25
Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$1,000

**Join at the \$100 level or above** and receive a special premium, *Signposts Revisited*, by Pat Loomis or the Bay Area Modern playing cards.

Please check if you would like to receive  
a book or playing cards  
*Signposts Revisited* \_\_\_\_\_ or cards \_\_\_\_\_  
or both at the \$250 level.

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as an extra donation to

PAC\*SJ for a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in working with the following  
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**Advocacy**

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**Complete and return with your check to:**

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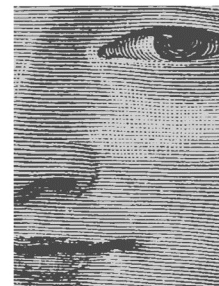
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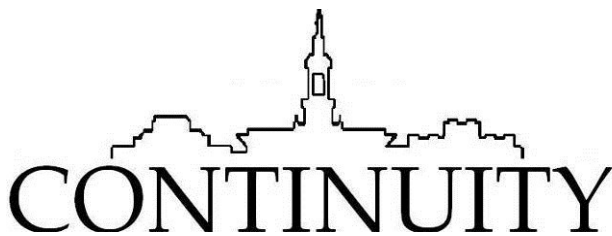
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## *Renew or Join PAC\*SJ Today!*



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose PAC\*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San Jose's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

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

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