

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

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April 2007



Secret Gardens & Outdoor Spaces Tour



Once a year, a number of gardens are open for public viewing during Pacific Groves Secret Gardens and Outdoor Spaces Tour. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 5, from 10am to 4pm. Volunteer docents will guide participants through eight unique gardens and outdoor spaces designed and cared for by their owners. The featured spaces showcase everything from bonsai to vibrant beds of roses.

Local artists have created works with a garden theme to

display at the various locations on the tour. Participating artists include: Charlsie Kelly, Stephanna Murphy Robins, Ray Magsalay, Day Thomas, Noelle Nichols, Thomas Barber and Sonja Cook. Attendees may purchase directly from the artists.

A Garden Tea Party will be held at one of the locations throughout the length of the tour, with complimentary tea and cookies served by Heritage Society volunteers.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and

\$15 day of the event. Purchase tickets at these PG locations: Heritage Society's Ketchum's Barn, Ms. Trawicks Garden Shop, PG Museum of Natural History, Pacific Grove Florist, Tides, Tessuti Zoo, The Works.

Ticket holders are provided with a map listing the garden locations on the day of the event (all properties are not wheelchair accessible).

To volunteer or for further information, contact the Heritage Society volunteer, Rebecca Riddell, at 831-646-0351.

Calendar

APRIL

WILDFLOWER SHOW
April 13-15
Museum of Natural History
Forest and Central

GOOD OLD DAYS
April 21-22
Downtown Pacific Grove

**ARTISTS AT CONTINENT'S
END**
Through April 29
Monterey Museum of Art
559 Pacific St., Monterey

MAY

SECRET GARDEN TOUR
May 5, 10am – 4pm

**HERITAGE HOUSE
AWARDS**
Museum of Natural History
May 25, 7pm

Support the
Heritage Society
Thank You !

Paul Finnegan
Bill Whitney
already have

All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Board of Directors, but are meant to stimulate interest in and discussion of preservation issues.

Swan Boat

by Bob Davis

Pacific Grove's last Swan Boat has been in drydock at the City yard for the past decade. But now the Heritage Society is seeking your help to give the replica boat a home on the Pacific Grove shoreline overlooking the cove and bay where



The Swan Boat will be making its debut at the Good Ol' Days parade on April 21. To learn more about the history of the Swan Boats in Pacific Grove, stop by the Heritage Society booth on Saturday or Sunday at Good Ol' Days.

for more than 80 years its glass-bottomed predecessors gave visitors a below-the-surface view of sea life.

On March 7, 2007, the City Council confirmed an earlier Council's approval of a dry-land location for the boat between the walking trail and the snack shop near the foot of 16th Street. The Council also approved the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove as the fund-raising organization for the relocation and permanent placement of the Swan Boat.

The cost of site preparation and construction related to the mounting of the boat is estimated to be approximately \$20,000. A Swan Boat fund has been established by the Heritage Society, and donations

are sought from members and friends to support the return to the shoreline of this reminder of our heritage.

An initial donation of \$1,000 honoring Roy M. Wright, a pioneer hardware store owner and long-time fire chief, has been received from his daughter, Virginia L. Wright, a local member of the society.

Donations to the Swan Boat project are tax deductible under California and Federal regulations. Checks should be made out to the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove, P.O. Box 1007, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

The Heritage Society is indebted to Jan and Ted Rose for getting this project underway. For more information please contact Marsha and Dennis Tarmina, at marsha@tarmina.com or Bob Davis at rtedavis@aol.com.

HS

Retreat

Heritage Board Gets

Tune Up

by Ken Hinsbaw

Where do we want the Heritage Society to be in five years, and what would keep us from getting there? Does the organization really have a mature functioning committee system that brings well thought out recommendations to the board, or are most decisions worked out in a haphazard way by the board as a whole. Do we have an annual budget that supports our goals. Does the board fully participate in fundraising.

Local consultant and non-profit troubleshooter Lisa Bennett donated one intensive day of her valuable time to help our board explore our mission



Lisa Bennett (standing) led the Heritage Society Board through exercises that assisted the Board in identifying priorities and improving procedures.

and address problems that would keep us from realizing our goals. Lisa is a long time member and supporter of the Heritage Society as well as a City Council member.

Your board will be looking intensively at all our activities, perhaps dropping some that take up great amounts of energy with little "return." We

will be adopting a budget, and looking at improving our decision making process.

All this high minded work was fueled by caffeine, sweets, and delicious sandwiches from Goodies Deli. Thanks to Lisa for this interesting and stimulating day – things will never be the same at the Old Barn.

ken1@redsbift.com



Heritage House Awards May 25

The Heritage Society will present its annual house awards on May 25 at 7pm at the Museum of Natural History. This is a great opportunity to get to know a little more about our historic homes and the people who restore them and inhabit them. The teamwork results in some outstanding examples of restoration, innovation and community pride. Pictured above is one of the winners in 2006.

Losing Our Historic Fabric

by Ken Hinshaw

It's wonderful seeing the changes in our historic neighborhoods. As much of the remodeling and restoration is tasteful and well executed, the town looks better each year.



209 Monterey, under construction

However, two projects currently raise questions about how diligent the ARB should be on insisting that as much of the



211 Park under construction

original building materials as possible and practical be kept when remodeling a historic home. If the existing house is completely covered by either new wooden siding or plaster, with all new windows, window trim, and eave trim, do we still have a historic home?

The first project that raises that question is 209 Monterey St. The existing house presented such a dilapidated picture that it was a surprise when the head building inspector declared its structural elements to be sound. The owner received permission to move the house on the lot and add a garage with a second story living space. Apparently, lost in the approval process was the fact that the owner intended to cover the vertical one-by-twelve redwood boards that

were part of the original board and bat siding with four-by-eight sheets of plywood with bats over that. Would it have been possible to reuse the siding? If a more thorough investigation and discussion had taken place between the architect, owner and the ARB, perhaps more of the siding could have been reused.

This second project at 211 Park just behind Bookworks was also a building that was in poor condition and badly in need

of major remodeling. When the stucco was removed, the underlying material showed an original board and bat building that had been changed many times over its life. Windows and entry doors had been moved and moved again, with holes roughly patched. The finished

product will be remodeled with new windows, doors and eave material, and then covered with a new covering of stucco. The familiar two-story form will be preserved, but nothing of the original will be seen. This is

certainly a better choice than demolition. Maybe we need a new category of buildings that support the historic nature of a neighborhood, but have "lost" their historic outer fabric.

ken1@redshift.com

Annual Meeting: Election of New Board Members

Thank you Paul Finnegan for hosting and being the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting!



At the Annual Meeting, the members of the Heritage Society unanimously voted for four new Board members. Pictured, the current board includes 1st row: Betty Aickelin, Maryanne Spradling, Ken Hinshaw; 2nd row: Don Beals, Donna Stewart,* Bob Davis, Janet Cohen, Dennis Tarmina; 3rd row: Fran Horvath,* Darlene Billstrom, Craig Riddell, Marsha Tarmina. (Members not in the photo: Carroll Patterson, Steve Honegger, Barbara Nelson,* and Sally Rideout.*)
* Newly elected Board members.

New Members

Barbara Moore
 Thomas Rex Hardy
 Eric Conningham
 Sally Rideout
 Barbara Nelson
 Miss Trawick's Garden Shop

Membership Count:
1255

President's Message

by Darlene Billstrom

At the Annual Meeting, I overheard someone say, "Wow, I didn't know the Heritage Society did so much." Our board of directors works hard. Each one of them has at least one project they chair, plus they are also members of other committees. You see the events under the *Newsletter's* Calendar each month, but it's not until they're all listed together that one feels the full impact.

It became clear after our recent retreat that we needed to take a good look at all of our events

and the structure of the Board. So our goal for the coming year is to become more efficient, concentrate on the events that fulfill our mission, and get more people involved. This means reaching out to the community for helpers, making sure each chaired committee has a co-chair and enough people to make the work load lighter, and taking a good hard look at how we can do things easier and better.

Our mission is "to record Pacific Grove's historical background and preserve its important architectural structures...maintain the beauty and individuality of Pacific Grove; and to educate its citizens and inspire pride in its neighborhood." If we keep our mission in mind and tailor our events to fulfill it, our vision for the future of the Heritage Society and Pacific Grove will be accomplished.

The board members are suggesting fabulous ideas for the long-term future of the Heritage Society and Pacific Grove. In the coming months, I'll run them up the flagpole and see what you think. In the meantime, I urge you to join us on this adventure.

Billstrm@pacbell.net

Follow-up: Historic House Demolition

Last year during pre-construction, the owner of 275 Spruce St. had been cited for illegally demolishing most of his historic home. Subsequently, per the Preservation Ordinance, fines were levied.

At the January 2007 Historic Resource Committee (HRC) meeting, the owner questioned the historic designation of his modest shingle house, and wanted to take it off the Inventory of Historic Resources.



275 Spruce before the illegal demolition

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The HRC voted to keep the house on the inventory, as the former Committee had done in 2004, citing that the structure

had retained its integrity.

The owner appealed this decision to the City Council, who voted to uphold the HRC decision (5 – 2) based upon its findings.

Send your submissions to:
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