

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 9, Issue 1

January/February 2009



Annual Meeting at the Agassiz Lab

by Darlene Billstrom



Calendar

FEBRUARY

POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE

154TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday, February 1, 1 to 6pm
80 Asilomar Avenue

HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 15, 2pm
Program: Restoration of Agassiz Lab and tour

Where: Boat Works Auditorium at Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford, on Oceanview Blvd. (across from the Tin Cannery)



Rehabilitated classroom at the Agassiz Lab

The headline is a bit misleading. This year's annual meeting won't actually be at Agassiz Lab at Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University's Pacific Grove campus, but all who attend will get a tour of this fabulously restored and rehabilitated building. The annual meeting will be held in the Boat Works Auditorium at Hopkins Marine Station, before the tour.

Built in 1917, the Agassiz Lab, named after 19th Century Swiss-American pioneer oceanographer Alexander Agassiz, was the first building at the Station. It opened in 1919 and was modeled after the Stazione Zoologica in Naples. Since then, the three-story building has functioned as a teaching facility, housing classrooms, faculty offices and the campus's primary aquaria. It is the first of the Marine Station

structures to undergo seismic strengthening and rehabilitation under Stanford's Historic Preservation Program.

Historic architects Fletsher + Foster were commissioned in 2004 to work with the architectural, engineering and construction management firm to provide programming, design and consultation services for the rehabilitation. While preserving the original classrooms, the project added new exit stairs, an elevator, ADA restrooms, and a new ground floor entry.

New interior work restored historic elements that had been lost in the many insensitive modifications to the building. The original staircase has been restored along with its central feature, a second floor foyer. Walls were removed and a new, open banister was built that closely resembles the original grand stair. With the exposure of the old central core, a new glass meeting room has created a clear view to the bay. Rehabilitated and enhanced classrooms retain the simplicity of the early labs, but the original desks have been modified with electricity, original doors and windows have been restored, and new display casework has replaced rickety shelves to house the coveted specimen collection. Select lower floor openings were filled in to strengthen the structural base of the building, leaving recessed areas to delineate the pattern and rhythm of its historic façade. The aquaria were relocated, and the ground floor laboratory was restored at the north end of the building with a commanding view of the bay.

This is an outstanding example of restoration and rehabilitation done right. I can't wait to see it. I hope you feel the same anticipation and

will join us at the Boat Works Auditorium, Hopkins Marine Lab, on Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. There will be parking at the Station. I promise the meeting will be short and refreshments will be served.

See you then!

db@weaverstock.net

Annual Photo Contest Kicks Off

by Donna Stewart

The third annual 2009 Heritage Society Photo Contest and scholarship award kicked off on December 10. Donna Stewart of the Heritage Society and Jeff Becom, a well-known photographer, painter, published author and well-traveled artist visited with Matt Kelly's photography class at Pacific Grove High School. Jeff showed slides and gave a power point presentation of his art in painting, photography and printed form and shared with the students his passion for artistic expression. He complemented his talk with information that should prove helpful to the students as they embark on this year's photo contest. In May, the students' photographs will be displayed at the Museum of Natural History in the Yadon



Jeff Becom makes a presentation to Mr. Matt Kelly's photography class at Pacific Grove high school

Gallery, coinciding with the Heritage Society's Heritage House Awards.

If you are interested in helping to sponsor the scholarship award, you can make your tax-deductible contribution to the Heritage Society, PO Box 1007, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Please make the notation that your contribution is for the 2009 Photo Contest.

dstewnpg@mindspring.com

Heritage House Award Nominations

by Maryanne Spradling

The annual Heritage House Awards ceremony takes place in May, National Preservation Month. Take some time to look around your neighborhood and along your frequented walking and driving routes, and should you note a house that has been remodeled and/or expanded in a manner that complements its historic nature and setting, please send your nomination to the Heritage Society. Or, you can contact Maryanne Spradling at frogmbay@aol.com. The deadline is February 15, 2009.

And thank you to those who have already sent in nominations!

Council Comes Through With Lighthouse Landscaping Funds

by Ken Hinsbaw

The Heritage Society's Lighthouse Preservation Committee scored a home run at the November 19 city council meeting. The committee



Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History archives

This 1940's gateway from Asilomar Blvd. will be recreated as part of the landscaping plan

had requested \$30,000 for landscaping and related improvements to the Point Pinos lighthouse from the McIndoo bequest funds earmarked for beautification projects. The council expressed its support of our efforts by granting \$53,000 for the project! Over twenty proposals were received, and ours was one of three chosen for funding. Initial recommendations to the council were made by the Beautification and Natural Resources Committee headed by Jeanie Anton. Public works supervisor Celia Martinez supports and facilitates the Beautification Committee's work, and has been helpful in getting the project started.

The Lighthouse Preservation Committee is made up of veterans of the Heritage Society's Whistle Stop and Swan Boat projects: Steve Honegger, Dennis Tarmina, Jeff Becom, Andres Durstenfeld and Ken Hinshaw. Ken is attempting to coordinate this unruly crew's efforts.

The plan is to recreate the lighthouse grounds as they existed during World War II. Our Museum of Natural History has in its archives several historic pictures that allow local experts Vern Yaden and Frances Grate to identify and locate the correct plants and shrubs from that era. MPC landscape design instructor Helene Daniels has offered help with the design.

As you can see from the photo, a roadway, a wooden plank fence and a cypress hedge formed an oval boundary surrounding the lighthouse. The cypresses that have survived are now a century old, and have become graceful, windswept trees. Baby cypresses will be planted where the original trees have died out. The big-ticket item in the project is the recreation of the redwood fence and gates, which will be done by an outside contractor. Because the area around the lighthouse, like most of Pacific Grove's coastline, was populated by Native Americans for thousands of years and has potentially significant archeological material, an archeologist will be on hand to monitor the work.

Public Works has jumpstarted the program by organizing trimming of the mature cypresses, uncovering a hundred-year-old fountain in the process. The fountain appears to have only minor damage and possibly can be revived.

KenL@redsbift.com

154th Birthday of Lighthouse

by Ken Hinshaw

On Sunday, February 1, please join us in celebrating the 154th birthday of Point Pinos Lighthouse at 80 Asilomar Avenue. The lighthouse docents will be serving refreshments and offering tours of the lighthouse from 1-6 pm. There will also be a silent auction for a handcrafted mailbox of Point Pinos Lighthouse by artist Gregory Pimentel. The auction will be ongoing at the lighthouse, January through February 1.



Silent Auction: Point Pinos Lighthouse mailbox

As you can see after reading about the landscaping grant, there is work to be done and we need volunteers. Five hundred feet of fence will need at least three coats of paint, and plants need planting. After 154 years, the lighthouse deserves and needs some special care and maintenance! And Nancy McDowell, the excellent docent coordinator and trainer, needs volunteers.

Come to the birthday party, enjoy the refreshments and learn about opportunities to become a docent or a Lighthouse Reserve Volunteer. If you would like more information, please call me at 375-0816.

KenL@redsbift.com

225 Congress - Home Sweet Home

The newsletter staff thanks Jeff and Carolee Edmonds for sharing their house renovation adventure with the readers of the newsletter in our last four issues. The Edmonds also shared their home with the Heritage Society via the Heritage Home Tour in October, and most recently their home was featured in the debut issue of "Haven" magazine. Clearly, a successful project executed with expertise, honor of the old, and love is a magnet for admiration.

Jeff concludes his installments to the newsletter with a list of the companies and subcontractors who contributed to this project.

we did, especially the lovely antique-stained floors and stairs, the heated kitchen and bath floors and the remote controlled fireplace and heaters. It is comforting to have all the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems new and safe. And most rewarding is to be able to open the windows on a nice day and feel the ocean breeze. This is now a home we can live in for a long time. — Jeff Edmonds.

CREDITS:

- Bob Glaze Plumbing: 277-8049
- Dixon's Hardwood Floors, Joe Moag (Floor Refinishing) 596-9085
- Electrician, Curtis Vogt: 601-1390
- Painter, Sergio Corres: 917-9572
- Tile, Adam Funkhauser: 915-2230
- Fireplaces, Coast Insulation, Jake Espinoza: 408-690-2226
- Drywaller, Zack Kreido: 415-532-5542
- Tileco, Salinas: 759-8453
- Mill Direct Cabinets, Eileen Love: 375-4433
- J & M Marble (Stone Countertops): 633-0152
- Carpentry & Contracting & Coordinating: Jeff Edmonds/



Jeff and Carolee Edmonds on their classic PG front porch

We really love this house. The location is great, a half-block from the main street of Lighthouse Avenue. We are enjoying what

Edmonds Design & Construction 920-2280. With the indispensable creative help of Carolee Edmonds. *Il mio amore un allineare.*

New Members

Ted and Norma Bell
 Kathy Besag
 Jane Brady
 Fred and Karen Thommen

Membership Count:
1030

Newsletter Editor Passes the Torch

Maryanne Spradling is taking a well-earned break from editing the Heritage Society Newsletter. She will pass the torch to newcomer Jean Prock, starting with the next issue.

Formerly the editor-in-chief for Guest Informant, publisher of city guides from Puerto Rico to Honolulu, Maryanne has



The Heritage Society sponsored the Pacific Grove Pony Baseball league once again. This time, the Shetland Division, ages 5-6, proudly wore the jerseys emblazoned with "Heritage Society." Coaches, from the left: Chris Henden, Richard Llantero, Elliot Booker. Top row: Skylar McCleary, Cody Pinheiro, Benjamin Soria, Josh Mares, Lucas Strawser, Jordan Booker. Bottom row: Lyndsey Llantero, Jacob Booker, Alana Henden, RJ Escobar, Christian Durand.

enjoyed focusing on the city of Pacific Grove. After four years of performing the role of newsletter editor, she will continue to work as part of the editorial staff and contribute articles.

Jean retired from Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, where

she wrote and edited donor and staff newsletters, grant proposals and marketing materials. She currently writes a column and does proofreading for the Pacific Grove Hometown Bulletin. Jean and her husband Tony have been members of the

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Heritage Society since 2004, when their arts and crafts style house was awarded a certificate of commendation.

"The Heritage Society has a wonderful newsletter," says Jean. "I'll try my best to continue its tradition of excellence."

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