

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove*

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## 2009 Heritage House Awards

*by Maryanne Spradling*



*Top: So many elements contribute to the curb appeal of our historic homes – all of which create a sense of time and beg preservation. Thank you to all our historic homeowners who have done exactly that!*

*Above: Thank you to the judges who participated in this year's awards event. From the left: Darlene Billstrom (coordinator), Linda Bailey Smith, Donna Stewart (coordinator), Jeff Becom, Judy MacClelland, Steve Honegger, Joseph Rock, Craig Riddell and Maryanne Spradling (coordinator, taking photo).*

## Calendar

### MAY

NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL  
HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS

Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m.  
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural  
History

### JUNE

CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

June 25-28  
Martinez

Once again, during May, Preservation Month, we will be gathering to celebrate the homeowners, architects and contractors who took the extra steps in restoring and/or expanding homes in an exemplary fashion. Among the criteria that the judges use are quality and scope of work, problem solving, the positive contribution to the neighborhood and, when it comes to preservation, adherence to retaining the historic fabric of the structure.

The Heritage Society will also be paying tribute to the seismic exterior retrofit/preservation and extensive interior remodeling/renovation of the Agassiz Laboratory at Hopkins Marine Station. Members of the Heritage Society were treated to a tour of the laboratory and classrooms this past February

during the annual members' meeting. I am sure that, following the tour, most of us were wondering how we could become students there, with the inspiring classrooms and the Monterey Bay views.

We will also have a special tribute to the designers/builders/supporters of the Swan Boat, which was installed at Lovers Point this past summer. It has been quite the tourist attraction ever since.

The third annual **Heritage Society High School Photo Contest**, featuring the work of Matt Kelly's photography class, will share the stage once again, with the theme "A Centennial of Heritage." Local photographers Jeff Becom and Sharon Blaziek are judges for the contest. Please visit the photo display in the Vern Yadon gallery at the museum from the first of May 'til the middle of June, or the evening of the Awards Ceremony.

Thanks to all of you who took a close look at your neighborhoods and sent in nominations. Keep your eyes open for next year's Heritage House awards event. In the

meantime, please join us on Friday, May 8, at 7 pm, at the Museum of Natural History

## Why So Many Women's Names?

**H**eritage Society member Adam Welland discovered that a surprising number of original owners of historic homes in Pacific Grove were women. He suggested several possible reasons why this was so:

- Women lived longer, so it avoided tax issues when the husband died;
- It protected the home from creditors if the husband's business failed;
- The woman was a widow or unmarried when she had the house built;
- Or, perhaps it was a generally accepted practice at the time.

## California Historical Societies to Hold Conference

**T**he California Historical Societies will hold their annual meeting and conference June 25-28 in Martinez, California. Accommodations will be at the John Muir Inn, and discounts are available for travel to the event on AMTRAK.

According to flyers for the conference, the meeting will "shed light on some major mysteries of life including:

- *Who was Rosie the Riveter and how did she know Henry J. Kaiser?*
- *How can I restore a 2,000-pound tombstone that someone whacked into pieces?*
- *How do I begin to preserve Aunt Lizzie's old documents cluttering the closet?*
- *What is Port Chicago and why are we going there?*

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• *How can we visit Eugene O'Neill's home? He lived in New York.*

• *Who really invented the martini?"*

Anyone interested in attending the conference is urged to register promptly. Call Andrea Blachman at 925-372-7146 or 925-228-8160 for information, or email her at [andreablachman@pacbell.net](mailto:andreablachman@pacbell.net).

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