

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

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November/December 2009



It's Time for Christmas at the Inns

by Betty Aickelin



The Centrella Inn

Come celebrate! Start your holiday season with us on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 1 and 2, at the 25th Annual Christmas at the Inns Tour. Docents will be at each location, where you will enjoy live entertainment and refreshments.

On Tuesday, December 1, you can take pleasure in visiting: Seven Gables Inn (1886); The Martine Inn (1899); Pacific Grove Inn (1904); Centrella Bed and Breakfast (1889); Jabberwock

(1911); Inn at 213 17-Mile Drive (1928); Gosby House (1888); and Asilomar's Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, designed by Julia Morgan, where construction began January 1913 and was completed for the YWCA opening conference in July 1913.

On Wednesday, December 2, you will enjoy: Green Gables Inn (1888), Old St. Angela Inn (1910), and Old Monterey Inn (1929). The Centrella Bed and Breakfast, Inn at 213 17-Mile Drive, Asilomar's Phoebe Hearst Social Hall and

Jabberwock will be presented both nights.

Comfortable shoes are recommended; ladies are requested not to wear high heels.

Tickets for the two-evening event can be purchased beginning October 26 at the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce at 584 Central Avenue. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 18 and younger. Call the Chamber at 831-373-3304 for additional information.

Calendar

NOVEMBER PALACE HOTEL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

San Francisco
Through December 2009

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS AT THE INNS

Pacific Grove
December 1-2

MARCH "CURRENTS OF CHANGE" PUBLIC/ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Portland, Oregon
March 10-14

MAY 2010 CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Nevada City, California
May 12-15

Artists In the Museum

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History will host "Artists In the Museum" on Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 5-8:30 p.m. Fifteen local artists will sell their watercolors, pottery, textile art, photographs, glass art, gourd art and jewelry. The museum will receive 25 percent of the proceeds. The museum is located at 165 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove. For more information, call 831-648-5718.



The original Palace burned in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.



The Pied Piper of Hamelin Mural: In May 1909, owners of the Palace commissioned Maxfield Parrish to create a mural for the hotel reopening for \$6,000. Today the mural is valued at over 2 million dollars.



517 12th Street

100-Year Anniversary of Palace Hotel

The Palace Hotel, one of the Great Dames of San Francisco, underwent a \$150 million restoration in 1991, for which it received many historic preservation awards. Now the Palace is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Located on Market at Montgomery, the Palace is situated between Union Square and the popular Ferry Building. The Palace will be offering tours to honor its 100-year anniversary for a five-month centennial celebration through December 2009. If you are in the city for holiday shopping, a tour with lunch could be a welcome respite for a change of pace. Hotel tours (\$19.09), including lunch, take place on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10am, and Thursdays at 12:30pm. Reservations: (415) 546-5089.

40th Annual Historic Home Tour

by Claudia Sawyer

The 40th Annual Historic Home Tour held on October 4 was a success according to participants, docents, and homeowners. The home tour encompassed the following events: Artists in Chautauqua, Historic Downtown Walking Tour, Heritage Houses for the Birds auction, the Plein Air Hometown Exhibit and Historic Home Tour art contest exhibits at the Pacific Grove Art Center,

Point Pinos Lighthouse, Scripps Lodge at Asilomar, St. Mary's Church, and the Home Tour itself. There was a lot to see and do.

The historic home tour showcased houses ranging from a lovingly restored Victorian cottage and Gambrel roofed Victorian, to a 1932 Mediterranean style block house with a stunning view, a beautifully maintained 1949 mid-century modern, and two custom California ranch style houses filled with light and art nestled among the trees near Asilomar. An added lagniappe was a tour of the newly completed "green" house in the same Asilomar neighborhood. There was a house for everyone; docents and tour attendees alike had a great time discussing which house they would move into!

The historic walking tour wended its way up Grand Avenue, pausing at Rare Earth to see the interior of an 1888 Victorian store, gazing at the mural of Jim Jim's wedding, imagining the Tin Rink skating rink, admiring City Hall, stopping at Ketchum's Barn for Don Beals's homemade ice cream and a Barn tour, and ending at Artists in Chautauqua.

Artists in Chautauqua bustled all day with business. The art and crafts were well appreciated, as demonstrated by the dollars spent and happy faces. The Home Tour was a success economically as well, selling approximately 400 tickets in a year fraught with economic woes. Thank you to those of you who bought tickets and joined us on the tour.

Overall, the Historic Home Tour was a success due to the generosity of the homeowners who lent us their amazing houses for the day, to our

docents who graciously donated their time, and to the hard working organizers from the Pacific Grove Art Center, Pacific Grove Heritage Society and the Chamber of Commerce. Thank you all, it was fun.

Please note: This is a fundraiser for multiple organizations and no discounts are given on tour tickets.

Heritage Houses for The Birds Fundraiser Contest Winners

By Rebecca Riddell

The 5th Annual Heritage Houses for the Birds Contest and Fundraiser was held Sunday, October 4 in Elmarie Dyke Park in Pacific Grove. Nineteen birdhouses, built by members of our community and beyond, were auctioned off to the highest bidders to benefit the Heritage Society. This year's event raised approximately \$3,100 for Society programs and projects.

The event, held in conjunction with the Historic Home Tour and Artists in Chautauqua, also gave visitors the opportunity to vote for their favorite birdhouses. After they placed their official free votes, visitors could purchase additional votes to benefit the Society.

Some builders made an extra effort to raise funds by offering visitors beautiful and delicious homemade cookies for donations.

The public votes were tallied and the 2009 winners are:

People's Choice Award went to Dennis Tarmina for his birdhouse replica of Grove Market.

Best-of-Show Award went to architect Ed Bredthauer for his birdhouse crafted from pine needles.

Mayor's Choice Award, selected by Pacific Grove Mayor Carmelita Garcia, was won by contractor Bruce Looram, who also won the **Best Assessed Value Award**, selected by Monterey County Assessor Stephen L. Vagnini, and the **Best Victorian Award** for his finely crafted Victorian birdhouse.

Steve Honegger took First Place in the **Best Historic Replica** category for his replica of the Arroyo Seco water tower.

Local artist Murphy Robins took home the **Best Cottage/Beach House Award**.

The **Best Whimsical Birdhouse** was Craig Riddell's replica of Ketchum's Barn.

For further information about the Heritage Houses for the Birds, contact event co-chairs Craig and Rebecca Riddell at 831-646-0351.

Painting Donated

The Heritage Society thanks Marilyn Nelson for her generous donation of a watercolor painting of the Point Pinos Lighthouse. The artist was Philoma Goldsworthy, a contemporary of Elmarie Dyke. Mrs. Goldsworthy, who died in 1993 at the age of 98, was a well-loved member of the Pacific Grove community and a supporter of the Heritage Society since its founding in 1976.



People's Choice Award: Grove Market



Best Whimsical Birdhouse: Ketchum's Barn



Best PG Cottage or Beach House

New Members

Membership Count:
1177

Mural Sleuth Finds Treasure

In the October 2009 issue of the Heritage Society newsletter, we reported on two outdoor murals in Pacific Grove, one on the side of the Central Avenue Pharmacy and one on a house on Fountain Avenue. We said we knew of three other outdoor murals in town, and invited readers to let us know if there were any more.

Mural sleuth Sue Taylor rose to the challenge and emailed an impressive list of murals we missed.

"I enjoyed the photos of the murals," she wrote, "but you cited only three other murals. I was quite surprised,

as there are quite a few in PG. Would love to see short articles documenting each mural, and maybe a nod to those murals that are now painted over."

We knew about the PG history mural on the recreation trail, the mural on the side of Grove Market, and the mural that wraps around the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration building. And we recently noticed the mural of Lake Majella near the entrance to Carrow's Restaurant. But Ms. Taylor cited many more:

- Wedding mural on laundry/dry cleaner building
- Art House on Fountain Avenue
- Flying Fish on Fountain at Lighthouse
- Natural history mural on back wall of Museum
- Paseo de Padres on pharmacy on 15th Street
- Picnic mural on side of Granary Bakery
- Pride-Place mural at PG High School

She also mentioned the WPA mural at the Post Office.

Thank you for these valuable leads, Ms. Taylor! We'll follow up on them and report back in future newsletter issues.

Upcoming Events Elsewhere

"Currents of Change"

March 10-14, 2010, Portland, Oregon. Joint conference of the National Council on Public History and the American Society for Environmental History. Workshops and networking for historians, professional and amateur, academic and civilian. For information, visit www.ncph.org/conferences/2010

2010 California Preservation Conference

May 12-15, 2010, Nevada City, California. Recommended for anyone involved in or concerned with historic preservation. Thirty sessions, tours and workshops on issues facing California's historic, cultural and natural resources. Topics include Implementing CEQA, Evaluation of Historic Resources, Preservation Planning, Financing Historic Preservation. Registration fee \$255 for members, \$295 for non-members. For information or to register, visit www.californiapreservation.org

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