



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

November 2016 Volume 40, No 2

Since
1913

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 6, 2:00–4:00 pm

Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

The PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION *presents*

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PAHA's Public Meetings

GENERAL PROGRAM MEETINGS

are held monthly

2:00–4:00 PM

October – May

at the

Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

PAHA'S NOVEMBER MEETING

November 6, 2016

The Christmas Bureau of Palo
Alto with Pat Einfalt,
President of the Board

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 4, 2016

Vignettes Panel

moderated by Karen Holman
former Mayor of Palo Alto

THE CHRISTMAS BUREAU



brother and I presents."

"Gentlepeople,

"We are so grateful for you. Every year you put a smile on my mom's face because she gets to buy my

Thank you so much for including me in your Christmas gift. I can really use it for food this month."

PAHA'S NOVEMBER PROGRAM CELEBRATES
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTMAS
BUREAU, NOW A VENERABLE PALO ALTO
TRADITION AND INSTITUTION.

In 1956, a group of Palo Alto Unified School
District (PAUSD) nurses and social workers
collected toys, food, and gifts for
138 local families. From that modest
beginning, the program and its network

of supporters expanded: volunteer
leaders solicited referrals from local
agencies and carried on the hard work
of organizing annual campaigns to raise
funds to distribute to families in need.

In 2015, the Christmas Bureau board of
fifteen volunteers raised \$110,000, which they
transformed into monetary gifts benefitting 3800
individuals! 98% of all donations go directly
to Palo Alto's neighbors in need. The Palo Alto
Chamber of Commerce recently described the
Christmas Bureau as "an outstanding Non-Profit
Organization" and honored it with its "Tall Tree
Award." In December, 2014, *The Mercury News*

commented on how the Christmas Bureau
provided enormous help to those "who are
struggling." Even more recently, the Mayor and
City Council of Palo Alto honored the Christmas
Bureau with a proclamation recognizing their
60 years of providing holiday cheer to those in
need in the community. The thank you
notes received from grateful recipients
keep the Board members energized.



Pat Einfalt, president of the Christmas
Bureau, will be PAHA's featured
speaker on November 6. She and her

husband made their home here in the 1960s,
raised their four children and pursued careers that
enriched their lives and that of their community.
Pat and several of her fellow volunteers will
present a slide show and narration, providing an
historical look at the origins and development of
the Christmas Bureau. To read testimonials from
Christmas Bureau recipients, please visit www.christmasbureauofpaloalto.org/testimonials/
and bayareane.ws/2djrGh3.

"Thank you so much for your gift. As a senior, I appreciate all your efforts to make the holidays a little brighter."



PAT EINFALT, center,
President of the Board of
the Christmas Bureau of
Palo Alto will speak.

Barron Park Notebook:

Born in War, Named by Children

THE KOREAN WAR WAS IN ITS SECOND YEAR IN 1952, WHEN THE PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PAUSD) ADVOCATED FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO SERVE A NEW DEMAND IN BARRON PARK.

PAUSD acquired the seven-acre site in 1951 for \$27,000. Meanwhile, the war resulted in a national steel shortage; schools were a low priority compared with guns, tanks, and ships for the war. In 1951 PAUSD sent Superintendent Henry M. Gunn to Washington, D.C. to lobby for an allocation of enough steel to build an elementary school on Maybell Avenue. Dr. Gunn lobbied Senators Richard M. Nixon and William F. Knowland, as well as other federal agencies. The steel allocation was approved: a 14-room school, Loma Vista, was built in 1952, for \$280,000.

The school was named by students! In May 1952, Louis W. Parente, sixth grade teacher at Barron Park School (then overcrowded by Maybell tract children) asked his class to name the school. As reported in *The Palo Alto Times*, May 27, 1952, the children responded: "Why not call it Hillview?" Parente explained there were already too many "Hillviews." That didn't stop his students. "What's

Spanish for Hillview?" they asked. Parente found that Hillview, roughly translated into Spanish, was Loma Vista, "a view of rolling hills." The school site on Maybell Avenue offered a picturesque view of the nearby hills. The Board liked it and made it official. The name Loma Vista lasted thirty years,



Loma Vista class picture from 1958. Courtesy Classmates.com. until demographic changes required shrinkage of PAUSD and combining some elementary schools. Loma Vista was renamed in 1982 to honor Juana Briones.

—Doug Graham, PAHA board member and historian of the Barron Park Association will be publishing regularly in this space—watch for it!

Prepare your neighborhood history: Getting started

Recently the Archives was gifted a newly published book by a Palo Alto resident, Ross DeHovitz, *Sharon Court at 60—a neighborhood history*. The book was researched and written

FROM THE DESK OF Steve Staiger, City Historian

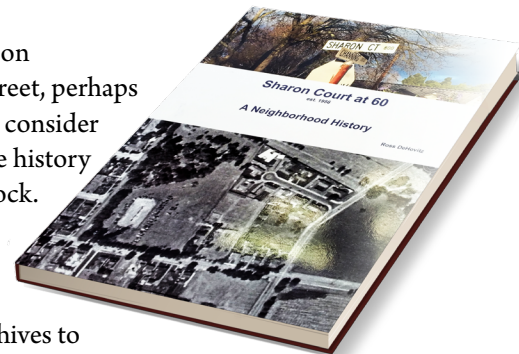
by Ross and includes a history of the street, the houses and the residents of the street on which he resides, Sharon Court, located off Channing Avenue near Eleanor Park. Fortunately for him, he resides on a cul-de-sac and the scope of his work was limited by the small number of houses on his street.

Ross was inspired by a similar publication, *Bellview Drive*, written by Barbara Harley in 1990. Both authors researched their street's subdivision history, determining when the houses were built, and who first lived in each house. Their task was a bit easier than some streets, not only for the brevity of the street's length, but also because both streets were post-WWII developments. The Sharon Court history has benefited from advances in desk-top publishing in the last

25 years, resulting in an attractive publication. The Archives were of great value to both authors. City directories and building permit cards were useful in determining who had lived in their neighborhood and when. But for some answers, county records in San Jose were researched. Obituaries and newspaper clippings also proved to be of value in dealing with some of the more puzzling problems.

I believe both authors enjoyed the process of researching and writing their histories. I encourage others to consider a similar project for your neighborhood, perhaps working as a team.

If you live on a bigger street, perhaps you might consider writing the history of your block. We would welcome your visit to the Archives to discuss this possibility.



PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Palo Alto Historical Association, a non-profit organization, was established in 1948 as successor to an earlier organization founded in 1913. Its main objectives are:

- Collect, organize, and preserve materials pertaining to the history and heritage of Palo Alto.
- Spread information about Palo Alto's history by means of programs, displays, and publications.
- Recognize and preserve historic sites and structures.

The Guy Miller Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association are stored at Cubberley Community Center, K-7.

Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Lucie Stern Community Center at 4 pm. General meetings are held the first Sunday of each month (October–December, February–May) at the Lucie Stern Community Center at 2 pm. Meetings include speakers. The final general meeting of the year is held in June and includes a dinner and a program. The public is welcome at all meetings.

The spirit of giving

Palo Alto and the Committee for Belgian Relief: 1914-1919

THE GREAT WAR ERUPTED IN 1914 AS GERMAN TROOPS MARCHED THROUGH NEUTRAL BELGIUM, HOPING TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN PARIS.



Years later, former President Hoover stands in front of a display of flour sacks used in the Belgian war relief effort, which he started as a successful mining engineer based in London.

The outbreak of hostilities caught American tourists in Europe unawares, but Herbert Hoover—Stanford alumnus then living in London—organized an emergency aid effort to help Americans get home. That operation evolved into the Commission for the Relief of Belgium.

After the Battle of the Marne, the Allies “dug in,” forming a massive line of trenches opposing a German line that stretched from the English Channel to the Alps. Food supplies dwindled in occupied Belgium where famine stalked the land. News of the “starving Belgians” aroused sympathy in the West. Herbert Hoover and his team of volunteers didn’t anticipate that their humanitarian task of feeding the Belgians or supporting them as refugees would last four years. Hoover secured an appointment to lead the CRB. He later wrote that the CRB had not planned that the program would have “to find a billion dollars, to transport five million tons of concentrated food, to administer rationing,” and act as a novel relief organization.



Special trucks and ships were operated by the CRB to distribute rations to more than 2,500 villages and towns. Courtesy of the Herbert Hoover Library.

Hoover called for donations and oversaw the shipment of almost 700,000,000 pounds of flour to Belgium. Though neutral until 1917, the United States played a role in Belgian Relief. Americans rallied to Hoover’s cause and Belgium’s plight.

Indeed, the Woman’s Club of Palo Alto quickly responded: their 1914 minutes record that “...this was not the year to think too much of self...” The “ladies of the club” pledged support for Belgian refugees by raising and donating money for the Belgian Relief Fund in 1915 and 1916. The Woman’s Club sponsored the fruit booth at Palo Alto’s Belgian Fair, with proceeds directed to the



The Belgian Fair in Palo Alto, 1916. These fairs were started in 1915 to raise funds locally to support the Committee for Belgian Relief.

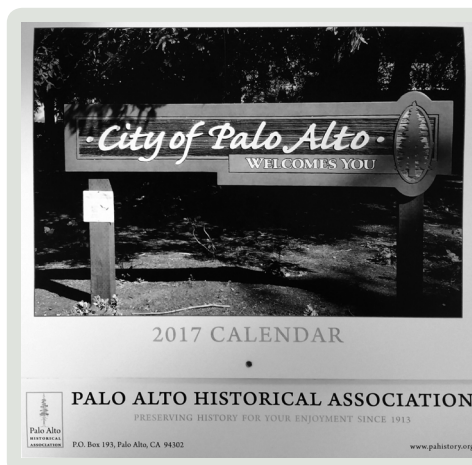
CRB. At Castilleja, students also raised money for the cause and even “adopted” a Belgian orphan.

—Peggy McKee

To learn more, visit the National Archives article “Herbert Hoover and the Committee for Belgian Relief,” www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1989/spring/hoover-belgium.html and the following titles: “The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover” (1952), “The Life of Herbert Hoover: The Humanitarian, 1914-1917” (1988) by George Nash, and “Herbert Hoover: A Life” (2016) by Glen Jeansonne, released this October.



Belgian war relief drive at the Belgian market on the Circle, which preceded the Red Cross Chapter (old train station in the background).



Out Now! The 2017 PAHA Calendar

Back by popular demand, the 2017 PAHA Calendar will be available for pick-up at the November and December PAHA meetings. This year features another series of historic Palo Alto images from the Archives. The calendar is free to members and \$15 for nonmembers.

Additional calendars are available for purchase at Bell's Books, Books, Inc., and the PAHA Archives. An excellent gift before the New Year, but act quickly, as supplies are limited!

History Jaunts

"Thanks for all the memories" to Keeble & Shuchat Photography and staff for over 50 years of service to members of the photographic community. The Palo Alto Camera Club offers the community an opportunity to celebrate Keeble & Shuchat on Monday, **November 14, 7:30-9:00 pm at the Palo Alto Art Center (Main Auditorium),** 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto. Admission is free; doors open at 7:00 pm. For more information, visit the Eventbrite website: <http://bit.ly/2dsywOV>.

Roble Rewind: A Look Back at Dance and Theater at Stanford On Wednesday, **November 9, at 5:30 pm**, Stanford's Department of Theatre and Performing Studies, joined by the Stanford Historical Society, will celebrate the re-opening of Roble Gym. The event will be located at Roble Gym Studio Theater, 285 Santa Theresa St., Stanford. A panel of TAPS luminaries will launch the festivities, followed by a performance by Chocolate Heads Movement Band. For details and specifics about making reservations, visit the website historicalsociety.stanford.edu/events/roble-rewind-look-back-dance-and-theater-stanford.

"The Butterfly Effect: Art in 1970s California" is showing at the Palo Alto Art Center (1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto) through December 30, 2016. The title of this dynamic exhibition comes from mathematician Edward Norman Lorenz's metaphor which suggests that something as tiny as the flutter of a butterfly's wing could have enormous and unintended consequences. The exhibition celebrates the "rich and noisy decade" of the 1970s and examines "the empowerment of individuals, the transformation of community, divergent spiritual practices, the importance of optimism... and keeping a sense of possibility active." Admission is free. For more information on hours and exhibition details, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/csd/artcenter/exhibitions/current.asp.

"All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50" Don't miss this exhibit, October 8, 2016–February 12, 2017, at the **Oakland Museum of California** (1000 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94607). Many of us remember the 1960s and the cultural phenomenon of the Black Panthers, who awakened and energized a nation. This exhibit, reviewed and recommended by the *New York Times*, offers rare historical artifacts, first person accounts, and new contemporary art that show how the Black Panthers inspired culture, activism, and community empowerment. For information on tickets and hours, visit the site museumca.org/plan-your-visit.

Welcome New Member!

Heather Pang

Heritage Program on Channel 30

The Heritage Program for November 2016 will feature

"Palo Alto Art Center Celebrating 45 Years" with Karen Kienzle

The schedule is

Wednesdays at 8 pm,
Thursdays at 10:30 am, and
Saturdays at 1 pm
on Channel 30.

DVDs of previous programs may be borrowed from the PAHA's Guy Miller Archives, which are located at Cubberley, Room K-7.

Hours: Tuesdays, 4-8 pm,
Thursdays, 1-5 pm

In Memoriam

Miner Forty Niner

The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



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Photographs courtesy of PAHA Guy Miller Archives unless otherwise noted.