



The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

Since 1913

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In partnership with Palo Alto High School The PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

presents

Palo Alto High School Centennial Celebration!



Join us as we celebrate 100 years of
community-supported public education.

Photo courtesy of Jon Kinyon

Sunday, October 7

1:00-2:00 March to Paly: A Centennial Reenactment

2:00-3:30 Centennial Celebration at Paly Campus

In collaboration with the Paly Centennial Committee, PAHA welcomes all walkers to join us in reenacting the 1918 march from Paly's original location to its present location.

Those who wish to join the march, please meet at Channing House (850 Webster Street) by 12:45. The 1.4 mile march will begin at 1:00. The Paly band will be leading the march down Webster Street, turning right on Kingsley, and up to Embarcadero, using the pedestrian walkway under Alma/RR tracks, and then crossing back over Embarcadero on the bike path and on to Paly.

After the march (and for those who cannot join the march), everyone is invited to Paly's spectacular new Performing Arts Center (50 Embarcadero Road) to celebrate Paly's 100th birthday with world premier vocal and theatrical performances and special dedications presented by notable Paly alumni. There will also be a dedication of Centennial Plaza, we will honor Paly's school founder Anna Zschokke, and we'll finish the afternoon with birthday cake!

<https://palytheatre.vbotickets.com/events> has general admission tickets. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the event. Box Office opens at 1:30.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Ralph Britton

**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, Phone (650) 329-2353.

Board meetings are held at 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Guy Miller Archives. Public programs are held at 2pm on the first Sunday of each month (October-December, February-May) at various locations in Palo Alto. Programs include speakers. The final program of the year is held in June and includes a dinner and a program. The public is welcome at all programs.

My Channing School Experience

We celebrate the 100th anniversary of Palo Alto High School at its current location this year. As part of that celebration, this month's meeting will re-enact the move from the old High School on Channing Avenue. It may not be well known that the old High School was used as an elementary school for some years after high school students moved into the new building. It was there I attended Mrs. Sorensen's 5th and 6th grades in the fall of 1944 through the spring of 1946.



Channing School, 1946

Our classroom had high windows, steam radiators, and rows of ancient desks with folding seats and seatbacks fastened to the desk behind. The desks had inkwells which were used by kids transitioning from writing with pencils to ink. Facilities from the school's period as a high school included a pleasant library room, a large science lab, and a separate gym building. Our class regularly went to the science room, presided over by Ms. McGauran, who helped kids with individual projects. My project was a mercury barometer that failed because the tube was too short. That didn't matter because the glass tube wasn't sturdy enough to contain the mercury under atmospheric pressure and it all ended up on the floor!

There was a playing field across from the school on Channing Avenue. The conveniently located Channing Market, where you could get a snack or an ice cream bar, was a half block towards Cowper Street. The Board of Education had offices next door and the school dentist, Dr. Pearl Hannah, also had her office there with its slow, grinding, belt-driven dental drill.

It was wartime and no parent would waste rationed gasoline driving kids to school, so we all rode bikes. There were two highly memorable events during my years at Channing School. The first was the death of President Franklin Roosevelt on April 12, 1945. The principal, Ms. Rust, came into our classroom to make the announcement. There wasn't a dry eye in the classroom, as Roosevelt was a highly respected wartime leader. Shortly after, the war in Europe ended with VE day on May 8. We weren't in school for the August 1945 ending of WWII. After another year at Channing School, the class moved on to Jordan Junior High School which at the time had 7th through 9th grades, becoming a middle school (6th through 8th) in the late 1970s.



Ralph Britton's 6th grade class with Mrs. Sorenson, 1946

A True College Town



**FROM THE DESK OF
Steve Staiger
City Historian**

I have been associated with college towns for my entire adult life, beginning with four years in Davis and a year in Berkeley before moving to the College Terrace neighborhood in 1973.

His opening paragraph succinctly stated: "Palo Alto, notable for many things, is also unique in its origin. While most towns grew up around a store, a stage station, a natural shipping point or other features, this one was deliberately planned as a university center." There are hundreds of college and university towns scattered throughout the nation. While large cities may not be considered college towns, these cities may have neighborhoods that can be considered "college towns" within the larger metropolis.

I recently came across an article written by PAHA's first historian Guy Miller in 1948.

It has long been my understanding that Palo Alto (Article continues on page 3)

Welcoming Our New Board Members!



Palo Alto is **Anita Delany's** hometown. Her father graduated from Stanford in 1948 with an EdD and her first birthday was in the family home in Palo Alto. She attended Palo Alto schools—elementary, junior high, and high school. She and her husband purchased their current Palo Alto home in 1977. Anita is a career teacher and reference librarian, and

currently works as an extra help librarian for the Santa Clara County Library District. She feels many changes have come to Palo Alto, but much of its original vibe remains: the green canopy, friendly neighbors, and a vibrant college town.



Born in Palo Alto and raised just across the bay, **Jeff Day** can trace his family's Palo Alto roots back to the mid 1920s. His great grandfather worked here in the automotive field as did his grandfather and great uncles. Jeff has worked at a local Palo Alto auto body shop for the last 18 years so he could proudly raise his children in the city his family has long called

home. One of Jeff's favorite passions is to sift through the relics at local estate and yard sales mining for treasures to save from a possible landfill fate. He is excited to be a part of PAHA and hopes to help bring Palo Alto's rich history to the public and to preserve local artifacts for future generations to enjoy.

(Continued from page 2)

is the only college town with its origins linked to the establishment of a new college or university. Davisville, as it was known in the early days, was a small farming community in Yolo County when the new University of California campus opened more than 100 years ago. Berkeley was a modest sized town when the founding University of California campus moved to Berkeley from Oakland 150 years ago.

I challenge you to discover another college town that had its beginnings directly associated with the founding of a new college or university. I have searched without success to find another college town with roots like Palo Alto. Some of you may argue that Palo Alto predates the establishment of Stanford University since Mayfield, which was annexed into Palo Alto in 1925, was settled in the 1850s, long before



Born at what used to be known as the Hoover Pavilion, **Debbie Hapgood - Toscanelli** now lives in Menlo Park where she has spent the majority of her childhood and adult life. Debbie joined the family business and became a licensed funeral director in 1999. She wholeheartedly knew this was her calling. Sadly, Roller Hapgood & Tinney closed its doors

in 2013, after 114 years. She now works at Alta Mesa Funeral Home in Palo Alto. Debbie loves spending time with her son and his wife, her stepdaughter, stepson, and two grandchildren. After a 30-year hiatus, Debbie can be found water-skiing at the Delta whenever possible!

GOOD NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM:

OVER \$11 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED IN 11 YEARS!



The City Council committee is very supportive, and especially interested in how our new corporate campaign might strengthen our present economic base. We're working hard to meet the November 30 deadline to raise \$1.75 million (\$1.25m to go!) – at which time they will ADD \$665,000 and commit even further to the Museum.

Help meet this critical milestone: double your donation! Give online or by mail by November 1 and we will match it from the Hewlett Foundation's new gift of \$250k. Host a house party, make a pledge, bring a donor to tour the Roth, and ask your friends to follow your lead and make a gift to establish a Museum to make this community proud.

Get in touch at www.paloaltomuseum.org

Stanford. But it was Mayfield's 13 saloons and 2 breweries that caused Leland Stanford to ask Timothy Hopkins to create a new and separate community away from Mayfield and the potential influence of its alcohol on the new students at Stanford University.



Stanford football team, 1890s. Courtesy Stanford archives

History Jaunts for the Fall

The **PAST Heritage Fall 2018 Walking Tour Schedule** is now available for your strolling pleasure: College Terrace on Sat. October 6 (meet at 1181 College Ave), Downtown on Sat. Oct 13 (meet at City Hall Plaza, 250 Hamilton Ave), Professorville on Sat. Oct 20 (meet at 1005 Bryant St), and Homer Avenue on Sat. Nov 3 (meet at the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Ave). **Rain or shine, all tours begin promptly at 10:00 am.** For more information visit the PAST website <http://www.pastheritage.org/tours.html>.

Another Palo Alto treasure is the **Cantor Arts Center** at Stanford University. While the weather remains pleasant, take advantage of the Cantor's regularly scheduled, docent-led excursions. These include visits to Memorial Church (Sunday, September 30, and Sunday October 28 at 11:15 a.m. Meet at the church entrance outside Main Quad) and the Outdoor Campus Tour and Outdoor Sculpture Walk (Sunday, October 7 and Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. Meet at the Main Quad, top of the Oval). These outings are free and open to the public. For more information on these walks and many other tour options, call (650) 723-4177 or visit <https://museum.stanford.edu>.

MOAH—the **Museum of American Heritage**—launches a new exhibit on Friday, September 28: Vintage Toys—It's Child's Play. The exhibit showcases pedal cars, trains, toy sewing machines, builder toys and much, much more. Treat yourself, your children, and your grandchildren to this charming exhibition. MOAH is located at 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto's Historic Corridor, and is free and open to the public Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. For more information on hours and docent tours, call MOAH (650) 321-1004 or visit the website www.moah.org.

Hurry, hurry to the **Los Altos History Museum** to see "**Paint the Town II**" before it closes on Sunday October 7! Visitors may view "never-before-shown works of art by local artists that showcase 'echoes of the past' by representing many historic homes and historical sites that are still present in our landscape and capture our connection to the past." The Los Altos History Museum is located at 55 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. The Museum is free and open to the public Thursdays-Sundays, noon to 4:00 p.m. For more information on "Paint the Town II" and upcoming exhibits, call (650) 948-9427 or visit www.losaltoshistory.org/exhibit-archive/current.

If you want to go farther afield, the **California Academy of Arts and Sciences** introduces a new permanent exhibit—"Giants of Land and Sea." This exciting new addition to the Academy takes visitors through an immersive fog room, an earthquake simulator, and a virtual ascent to the top of a towering redwood. The Academy is located in Golden Gate Park, 55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco. For details on tickets and planning your visit, call (415) 379-8000 or visit the website www.calacademy.org/exhibits/giants-of-land-and-sea.

It's time to experience the **Oakland Zoo's "California Trail Expansion,"** which in July doubled the zoo's size and added eight new, native, iconic California species. Native bears, wolves, mountain lions, bison, bald eagles, and condors call this park-like animal exhibit home. The Oakland Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located at 9777 Golf Links Road, Oakland. For information and details on admission and tickets call (510) 632-9525 or visit the website www.oaklandzoo.org/plan-your-visit.

Welcome New Member!

Christine Shambora

PAHA Programs for Fall 2018

October 7 - March to Paly:
A Centennial Reenactment

November 4 - LSD and Palo Alto
with Rich Green

December 2 - Palo Alto Vignettes
with Karen Holman

The Heritage Program for October 2018 will feature June 2018's program

"History of Transportation
Networks in Our Region"
by Laura Jones

Weds. 8 pm, Thurs. 10 am
& Sat. 1 pm on Channel 30

DVDs available from
the Guy Miller Archives
Tues. 4-8 pm, Thurs. 1-5 pm



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