GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m.
Free & open to the Public
Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Seeing Our Places from Above

Speaker: Ben Hatfield
Aerial Photographer
2003 San Francisco Photoshoot
(courtesy Hatfield Aerial Surveys/Archives)

Adrian Hatfield, 1949
(courtesy Hatfield Aerial Surveys/Archives)

The PAHA program on January 25, 2009, will feature Ben Hatfield, who will talk to us about his father’s amazing collection of aerial photos of Palo Alto and its environs. Ben’s father, Adrian Hatfield, was one of the first aerial photographers in the Bay Area. He amassed a collection that spans the years 1947–1979.

Trained during the Second World War as an Aerial Mapper/Aerial Photographer, Adrian Hatfield translated his military experience into the business, Hatfield Aerial Surveys/Archives, photographing housing developments, the Stanford Industrial Park, Great America, the construction of Highway 280, nurseries, orchards, and more.

Cities, towns and the State of California took advantage of his expertise to chronicle and preserve the history and expansion of this area.

Ben Hatfield and his colleague, Barry Anderson, have recently published Over Time: Palo Alto, 1947–1980, which documents Adrian Hatfield’s accomplishments. The book is available at several locations in Palo Alto.
The Palo Alto History Museum

As we begin this new year, we are very happy to report that a prominent Palo Altan has pledged $2 million dollar for restoration of the Roth Building as the home of our local history museum. This commitment is our single largest to date, and will serve to lead others to fulfill our goal of providing the new center for educational and cultural activities.

History teaches us many things, much of which goes without examination absent a museum that seeks to highlight the knowledge, events, and even mistakes, that have led us to this point in time. It is through examination of our history that we are guided into the future. This is the continuum that our multi-generational lives represent.

The Palo Alto History Museum will provide both traditional and creative new ways to explore our Palo Alto-Stanford past and provide tools to design the future.

Have a wonderful, successful new year in whatever your endeavors. As we look forward to a successful year working for our community history museum, we thank each of you who has already joined in our effort and look forward to including new supporters who will join our $2 million donor in becoming stewards of our history.

The Palo Alto History Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization.
P.O. Box 676, Palo Alto, CA 94302
650.322.3089, kholman@pahistorymuseum.org

In Memoriam—Carol Murden
Historian, Preservationist

Palo Alto and The Palo Alto Historical Association mourn the death of beloved supporter of historic preservation and Palo Alto’s history, Carol Murden. After raising her two sons, Christopher and Andrew, Carol became deeply involved in a variety of organization devoted to local history: she joined and served on the board of PAST (Palo Alto Stanford Heritage); she was appointed to the Palo Alto Historic Resources Board; she served on the PAHA board, as well as that of the Palo Alto History Museum; she joined the History Committee of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. In 2002, PAST acknowledged her many contributions with a lifetime award. A memorial service celebrating Carol’s life took place on January 17, at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carol’s name to the Palo Alto History Museum (P.O. Box 676, Palo Alto, CA 94302.)
Aerial photographs are one of my favorite kinds of images. I know some people have difficulty interpreting aerial photographs because of the unfamiliar perspective. I can examine one and see streets, neighborhoods, and other landmarks to help identify where and when the photograph was shot.

In the Palo Alto history archives, we have many aerial photographs, some shot by Adrian Hatfield between 1947 and 1980. He was the father of the speaker at our January public program. But our collection demonstrates that aerial photography goes back even earlier than the first airplanes that were flown on the Peninsula. Some of our photographs date to more than 100 years ago. They were taken from atop water towers, or perhaps from remotely triggered cameras suspended from kites or balloons.

These earliest images were taken by amateur photographers who were experimenting with new technologies just for the fun of it, but later, many were shot for commercial or government reasons. Adrian Hatfield aided the military during World War II and subsequently made a career of selling his aerial photographs to developers, planners, and property owners.

Aerial photographs still continue to be produced, although like other documents of today, more often these images are digitally shot, stored and viewed. Google offers aerial views of much of the world, seen via the internet. Such digital images allow zooming in to identify individual neighborhood landmarks such as trees or automobiles parked in the driveway, or zooming out to see a neighborhood in context. See your neighborhood up close or as a part of the rest of California at Google Maps.

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In February: See “Vignettes, the 7th Annual Storytellers,” December’s program about growing up in Palo Alto. Currently showing: “100 Years of Humane Caring,” the story of the Palo Alto Humane Society.
PAHA’s Public Meetings to Come

Most of our public meetings are on the first Sunday from October—May at 2:00 PM at the Lucie Stern Community Center.

NEXT MEETINGS:

**March 1 at 2:00 PM**
Geology of the Bay Area
Speaker: Bonnie Murchey
U.S. Geological Survey

**April 5 at 2:00 PM**
Mayfield Brewing Company
Speaker: John P. Alderete
President/CEO

**May 3 at 2:00 PM**
History of the Palo Alto Women’s Club
Speaker: Margaret Feuer

**Wednesday, June 10:**
Annual Meeting
Dinner at the Sheraton

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**Museum of American Heritage**
Lecture: *A Musical Tour on Candalmas Eve*
Commentary and performance by The Crones,
Music from Medieval to Modern
Livermore Learning Center at MOAH
Members: Free, Non-members: $5
Sunday, Feb. 1, 3 to 4:00 p.m.
351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto, California
650-321-1004  Fax: 650-473-6950
Continuing exhibit, *Music to One’s Ears*, through March 29.

**Gamble Garden**
Classes in winter gardening are available.
1431 Waverley Street. For more information call 329-1356

**Bill Lane Center for the American West**
is sponsoring *Lincoln and the West: The Legacy of the Lincoln Administration in the American West*, February 5 and 6.
Free and open to the public, RSVP required, contact:
http://west.stanford.edu or call 650-721-2252.

**Los Altos Hills Historical Society**
Jeanne Farr McDonnell, speaker about
*Juana Briones: Her Land, Her House*,
February 22, 3 to 5:00, Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.