ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, June 10
Reservations required (page 3)

“Portraits of Success: Silicon Valley”
Guest Speaker: Carolyn Caddes
Palo Alto Sheraton
625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Carolyn Caddes,
A Portrait of Success Herself

PAHA is delighted to announce Carolyn Caddes as the speaker for the annual meeting on June 10. Many of you know that Carolyn is devoted to Palo Alto and its history, having served on the boards of both PAHA and the Palo Alto History Museum. In addition, she earned fame if not fortune as a popular photographer. Carolyn first pursued photography as a hobby and then more seriously with coursework at UC Santa Cruz, Foothill, De Anza, and at the Ansel Adams Workshops. What began as an interest became a passion and then a successful career as she published Portraits of Success: Impressions of Silicon Valley Pioneers in 1986 and photographed Rosa Parks in 1987. Her book, which was received to considerable acclaim, featured photographs and articles on Frederick Terman, William Hewlett, David Packard, Steve Jobs, and Steve Wozniak, to name just five of the luminaries who literally put Silicon Valley on the map! Her photographs have been published in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, San Jose Mercury News, Palo Alto Weekly, and Nikkei Business magazine, and they have been exhibited in galleries, museums, public buildings, and private collections. In 1999, the San Jose Mercury News and the Women’s Fund honored Carolyn Caddes as “Woman of the Year in Communication.”
“California as I Saw It:” First-Person Narratives, 1849-1900

The Library of Congress American Memory website contains full texts and illustrations of 190 eyewitness accounts of the Gold Rush to the turn of the twentieth century. William Heath Davis’s Seventy-five Years in California is especially valuable as history by an author who spent most of his life here. California has the honor of being the first state to have such a collection on-line, a project assisted by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/skhtml/cbhame.html

Where They Meet/ Photos, Grateful Dead, Google, Calafia

This month’s column offers a first for the Tall Tree—a restaurant review. Like many restaurant reviews my report is based on several visits (a lunch and a dinner), but unlike most reviews, this review is not about the food.

Calafia Café is a new restaurant in the Town & Country Village Shopping Center (on the Embarcadero Road side). Charlie Ayers, formerly the executive chef at Google, and before that, chef for the Grateful Dead, has opened a restaurant and market in the newly revitalized Town & Country center. A recent review in the Palo Alto Weekly (April 24, 2009) summarized the restaurant’s offerings as a “sensibly priced, enjoyably furnished all-purpose restaurant… the food is good and the menu is the soul of diversity.”

But I want to tell you about the Association’s contribution to the ambience of this new restaurant. As you enter, there are 10 beautifully framed photographs on the wall to the right. James Olness, a professional framer and friend of Ayers, came to the History Desk in search of images to use in the restaurant. I learned that Olness grew up in Palo Alto and used to visit Ruth Wilson at the History Desk as a child of 8 or 9 years old to look at old photographs.

For years we have been providing access to the images in our collection to persons interested in displaying copies of old photographs in their homes, or in local businesses such as banks or other restaurants. For a nominal use fee the images are reproduced to their specifications. The cost of matting and framing the images is usually far more expensive than our fee.

After hours of review, Olness selected the images he wanted for the restaurant. I wrote captions for the images, and then he framed and hung them on the entry wall. I would encourage you to consider selecting one of our images as a gift or to display in your home. You can view 2000+ images at www.pahistory.org.

The latest photograph to appear on the walls of Calafia is an image of a Grateful Dead concert at Frost Amphitheater, taken in the 1980’s. The image was shot in the round, a 360 degree view of the concert. Although not one of our images, it is a great photograph reflecting a part of Palo Alto history.

From the Desk of the Historian Steve Staiger

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:

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

The Palo Alto Historical Association is stored at the Main Library, 1213 Newell Road. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Lucie Stern Community Center at 4 pm. Schedule of public meetings on p.4.

PAHA Heritage TV Programs
Cable Channel 30

Wednesdays 8:00 pm,
Thursdays noon,
Saturdays 1:00 pm

Our May program, The AME Zion Church, presented by preservationist Ruth Anne Gray, features the history and restoration of the original church on Ramona Street. It will be broadcast on local cable during June. DVDs of the Geologic History of the Bay Area, which contain images not available during Benita Murchey’s March program, will be available for $10 at the June dinner. PAHA monthly public programs are videotaped by Brian George and in addition to being shown on Channel 30, they can be borrowed from the archives at the Main Library on Tuesday evenings, 6–9, and Thursday afternoons, 2–5.
Women Historians, Women’s History

By Jeanne Farr McDonnell

I attended the 40th annual conference of the Western Association of Women Historians, where on May 1 I participated in the Women in Community and Commerce in California History panel, chaired by Professor Robert Senekewicz. He teaches history at Santa Clara University, where the WAWH met this year. My paper was “The Biographer’s Dilemma” about my work on Juana Briones of 19th Century California. I concentrated especially on Juana’s connections to Mission Santa Clara as well as to the University itself, where her youngest son was a member of the first class. I also mentioned problems in preserving and making available to the public access to the house constructed in 1844 by Juana Briones on what is now Old Adobe Road in Palo Alto.

Another panel at the conference related to woman suffrage. Washington State will have a major traveling exhibit and programs for the centennial in 2010 of women’s gaining full and equal voting rights there, an anniversary that should similarly be getting attention for California in 2011. A panelist from Oregon discussed emerging plans for similar events there in 2012. Part of the discussion related to raising national consciousness about the importance of the West in bringing about the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Rebecca Mead, author of How the Vote Was Won, wrote that it was the western representatives who “propelled the Amendment through Congress.”

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PAHA’s Public Meetings to Come
Monthly meetings begin in October, free and open to the public, held at Lucie Stern Community Center. Speakers to be announced.

NEXT MEETINGS:

**JUNE 10 at 6:00 PM**
Annual Dinner Meeting
Speaker: Carolyn Caddes, Author and Photographer
Palo Alto Sheraton (reservations required)

**OCTOBER 4 at 2:00 PM**
History of the Palo Alto Women’s Club
Speaker: Margaret Feuer, former Women’s Club President

**NOVEMBER 1 at 2:00 PM**
This Old House
Speaker: Carol Blitzer, Reporter, Palo Alto Weekly

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Palo Alto History Museum

Of the Palo Alto History Museum’s many activities, foremost is our effort to fund the restoration of the Roth Building as home for our local artifacts, activities, and stories. Hieroglyphics, lore, storytelling are sometimes the means by which cultures survive. Interest in oral histories and genealogy is on the increase, perhaps because of such tools as Ancestry.com, accessible methods for recording, or a growing awareness of the influence of others’ lives on our own.

Questions of importance that pertain to why a local history museum is relevant to this community—your favorite memory of living here, growing up here, going to school here. How has Palo Alto changed since your first memory of it? Did you go to Stanford? What sports team or event was most memorable for you? Did you have a favorite instructor? How many generations has your family been here? Do you have a favorite merchant? What is the very best as well as your least favorite thing about our community? Why do you live here?

If you have experience or training in collecting oral histories or in video, please contact us as we increase efforts to grow and to share our collection. Please keep us in mind when making your charitable gift decisions.

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

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The Tall Tree June 2009
Palo Alto Historical Association

P.O. BOX 193
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www.pahistory.org

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