



Since 1913

The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

Oct 2023 Volume 47, No 1

The Palo Alto Historical Association presents

Palo Alto Glory

Sunday, October 8, 2023 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Palo Alto Art Center ~ 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto



Athletes pictured: Top left to right: Jack Patrick, Bert Risling, Teresa Noyola, Bill Green, and Mark Allen.
Bottom left to right: Rink Babka, Marty Brill, Jim Campbell, and Akira Tana.

Join us on October 8 when Bo Crane will give a talk that will include brief profiles about a selection of notable athletes from Palo Alto high schools from 1910 to the 1970s.

To borrow a line from the Chariots of Fire movie, *All these athletes were honored in their generation and were a glory in their days.* Among the athletes featured in our program are a footballer educated at a Klamath River Indian boarding school, a discus thrower raised in Cheyenne,

Wyoming with Bohemian immigrant parents, four football-playing Japanese brothers who spent time in an internment camp, a soccer champion born in Mexico City, and a swimmer who competed in the 1968 Olympics (but not on a high school swim team).

One of the athletes featured in our program was the great-great-grandson of Secundino and Maria Robles and grew up on a 3-acre ranch remnant of their once 8,000-acre

grant. This land grant eventually became part of South Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Stanford.

Our speaker, Bo Crane, was born in Palo Alto and has written a number of books about local history and made numerous contributions to the Tall Tree. His book, *Palo Alto Glory*, contains much more than could ever be included in a PAHA program, but his talk will offer a quick flash of these generational heroes.

Free and Open to the Public ~ Refreshments Served

**2023 PALO ALTO
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The Palo Alto Historical Association, a 501(c)(3) charitable 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.

PAHA Board meetings are held at 5pm 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 and 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.

Jerry Tinney Receives the 2023 Steve Staiger Award

At the PAHA Annual Meeting in June, this year's "Steve Staiger Award" was given to PAHA board member Jerry Tinney. The annual award is given to someone who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments in preserving and sharing the history of Palo Alto.



Jerry Tinney

Jerry Tinney is a remarkable man with a long and interesting history in Palo Alto. He was born at the Palo Alto Hospital 90 years ago. His grandfather came to Palo Alto in the early 1900s to establish a funeral business for the Catholic community of Palo Alto. Jerry was part of the family business until his interests led him to other endeavors. Eventually, he became a masonry contractor, and even now, he can recall many of the hundreds of local fireplaces, outdoor barbecues, and masonry walls he built over the years. He is the only living mason who worked on the Frenchman's Tower (admittedly, his repairs and alterations on the tower were done a century after Peter Coutts had the

tower constructed on the edge of his estate).

But it is his role as the "official town geezer," as affectionately designated by PAHA Historian Steve Staiger, for which he has earned this award. His vast knowledge and remarkable memory for many little-known facts about Palo Alto has been a valuable resource for many historical inquiries at the Archives. A local historical

association such as PAHA needs someone who can recall where the old stores were located, the personalities of shopkeepers and city residents, and all of the other interesting facts of our town's past that are not found in the history books nor in the file cabinets at the Archives.

Palo Alto and PAHA are fortunate to have Jerry Tinney around to help with all sorts of inquiries and for volunteering his time to share his passion and knowledge of the history of Palo Alto. For these reasons, plus the fact that he is a great friend to PAHA, we congratulate you Jerry on your well-deserved 2023 Steve Staiger Award!

Remembering Raye Ringholz

By PAHA Board member Brian George

Former PAHA Board Member and well-known author Raye Ringholz passed away in July 2023. Her life was filled with writing, travel, and volunteering. I met her in 2016 when she joined the Board and immediately volunteered to be part of our Publications Committee. It did not take long to realize she was a prolific author with many books about history related to where she was living. According to her daughter Allyn, Raye's decision to write started with a weekly handwritten neighborhood newsletter while she was in elementary school, and it never stopped! Her career included 15 books and many

articles for newspapers and magazines. Fortunately for Palo Alto, her last book was the story of *Mayfield, The Town That Wouldn't Go Away* published in 2019.

In 2016, PAHA was looking to publish a new book after our successful 2012

publication, *Palo Alto Remembered*. Raye was new to Palo Alto, having moved from Coronado, CA, in 2015 to be closer to family. Her husband, Joe, was ill and passed away in 2016. Volunteering for PAHA helped her recover from his death. Raye wanted to continue her interest in writing about local history, so she (continued on page 3)



Raye Ringholz, former PAHA Board Member

Welcome New PAHA Board Members!



Ross DeHovitz

Ross DeHovitz is a semiretired pediatrician at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, where he has worked for 34 years, dating back to its days on Homer Avenue. Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Ross moved to Palo Alto in 1969, where he was enrolled at Addison Elementary School and Jordan Junior High School before moving to San Francisco for high school. Important memories of Palo Alto for him in the late 1960s were the Varsity Theatre, Round Table Pizza, and the Palo Alto Drive-In.

Ross' interest in history culminated in multiple projects in the last ten years. These projects have included a book on the history of the homes in his neighborhood and a database of the different shops at Town and Country Village over the years. He looks forward to researching the history of PAMF and helping identify Palo Alto Clinic's historical items for the new Palo Alto Museum.



Mary Pat O'Connell

Mary Pat O'Connell has lived in Palo Alto for nearly fifty years. She came to Palo Alto as a Stanford student and moved off campus during her junior year. Off-campus housing in Palo Alto was less expensive than the dormitories in the early 1970s!

She and her husband raised their two children in the community, and she served as an elementary principal for PAUSD for 13 years until her retirement in 2021.

Mary Pat and her husband live in a home on Palo Alto's historic preservation list. They moved the house to its current location in the Monroe Park neighborhood more than 30 years ago. She looks forward to getting to know fellow PAHA Board members and paying back to the community in a small way through participation on the PAHA board.



PALO ALTO MUSEUM GROUNDBREAKING!

An excited crowd gathered at 300 Homer Street on July 1, 2023, as ground was finally broken at the Roth building for the Palo Alto Museum! Local dignitaries and supporters—including our own PAHA VP and Palo Alto Museum President, Rich Green—spoke about the process of getting the Museum going, while those involved in the process broke the ground with their golden shovels!

(continued from page 2) studied Palo Alto's history using some of PAHA's publications and talked with PAHA Historian Steve Staiger and other Palo Alto oldtimers. After a few months of research, Raye suggested creating a book about Mayfield, and the rest is history. We were impressed by how quickly she turned her research into a unique book telling the story of Mayfield.

Other fascinating insights about Raye's life, as shared by daughter Allyn, highlighted her dedication to researching all her books by traveling with her family to locations in Utah and other states. One popular

book, *Uranium Frenzy*, was based on the 1950s boom and bust of promoting uranium mining in Utah. Raye's other interests were leading community-oriented organizations as well as creating and volunteering local events. She was also an adventurer, climbing the Tetons in Wyoming at age 50 and spending time in Africa as a photojournalist, a big game hunter, and a fisherman.

Her last years were spent at the Hamilton, in Palo Alto, writing, visiting with with her family, and making new friends, including Carol Gilbert, who handled the layout and publishing of Raye's Mayfield book.

October Jaunts

For the first Jaunt of the PAHA season, it seems appropriate to remind members that October is often Palo Alto's and the Bay Area's loveliest month! Below are four free gardens for you to explore on your own.

- **Allied Arts Guild:** 75 Arbor Rd. Menlo Park. Mon-Sat, 10 am - 5 pm. Website: www.alliedartsguild.org
- **Central Park:** 50 East Ave, San Mateo. Mon-Fri, 10 am - 4 pm, Sat-Sun, 11 am - 4 pm. Website: www.cityofsanmateo.org/3319/Central-Park-Japanese-Garden
- **Redwood Grove Nature Preserve:** 482 University Ave, Los Altos. Open daily 6 am - 9 pm. Website: www.losaltosca.gov/parksrec/page/redwood-grove-nature-preserve
- **Mrs. Stanford's Arizona Garden:** 450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford. Park at the lot at Welch and Quarry Roads and follow the path past the mausoleum. The garden, replete with cactus, yucca, agave, succulents is always open. Website: <https://facops.stanford.edu/arizona-garden>

On one of these balmy evenings, or at the Sunday Farmers' Market, wander up or down Palo Alto's California Avenue. In June, a trio of artists painted murals at 149 California Ave., 447 California Ave., and at the intersection of California Ave. and Ash Street. The vivid and colorful murals enhance the vibrancy of Palo Alto's "Restaurant Row."



Image courtesy of Palo Alto Online

Earlier this spring, the Palo Alto Public Art Program invited local muralists to apply to be part of the project. The outcome is visual delight! Expand your stroll by beginning at Bowden Park, 2380 High Street. Walk under the underpass—itself decorated with a whimsical undersea mural—past the fountain to California Ave.

PAHA's Fall Membership Drive Is Chugging Right Along!



Palo Alto train depot, 1895

Please renew your PAHA membership now at pahistory.org/membership or by mail to Palo Alto Historical Association, P.O. Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. We appreciate your loyalty and support!

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Welcome New PAHA Members

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Olivia Maggi
Nicholas Marinaro
Mary Pat O'Connell
Philip Roberts
Judith Sadoff
Emily Sosna
Barbara Stevens
Michael Strohecker
Allyn Taylor

Upcoming Program Dates

- December 3
- January 28
- March 10

Previous PAHA Programs

If you missed the May 7th program, *The 27th Centennial Plaque and Historic Preservation Awards*, you can find it and other recent PAHA program videos on Vimeo by following this link: <https://vimeo.com/814425410>

The Heritage Program

You can also watch the most recent PAHA program on local TV. Visit <https://midpenmedia.org/local-tv/> and enter the word "Heritage" in the search box to find the broadcast schedule for PAHA programs.

In Memoriam
Raye Ringholz

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Bo Crane, Peggy McKee, Luana Staiger,
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Jon Kinyon, Lead Editor & Design
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