

# The Tall Tree

MAY 2013  
VOLUME 36, No 7

NEWSLETTER of the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING \* FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \* REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 – 4:00 PM  
Lucie Stern Community Center, Palo Alto  
1305 Middlefield Road

Speaker: Andrew J. Bernstein, Palo Alto Author

## California Slim and the Palo Alto Music Scene

### *The Music, the Magic, and the Madness*

Andrew Bernstein's new book—an electrifying memoir on the grandeur of life in the '60s and '70s. They say that if you remember the '60s, you weren't there.



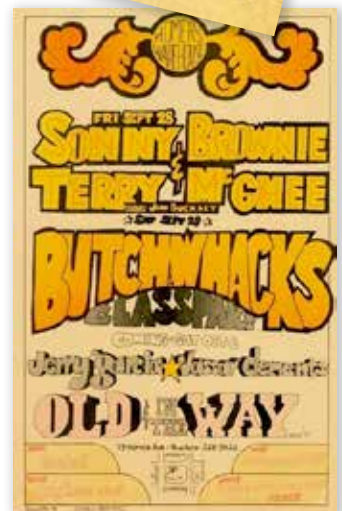
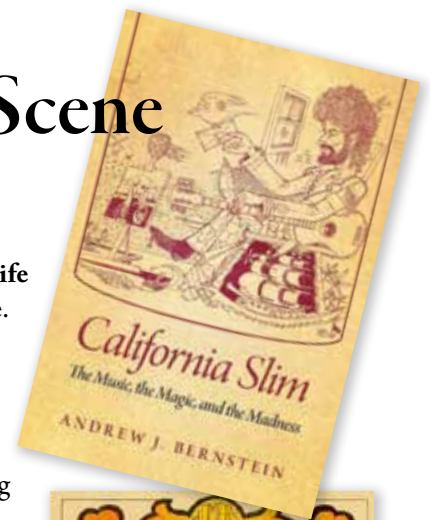
Andrew J. Bernstein was born in San Francisco and raised in Palo Alto. He studied English and Multimedia in college, but his heart was in music, social causes, and all the opportunities afforded by the SF Music and Cultural Revolution.

Thank God, Bernstein took notes! Join us at the upcoming PAHA meeting, and hear author Andrew Bernstein tell his story.

His career, which spanned 1962 to 1980, represents the dreams of many male music-loving boomers of that time. As a teenager, he studied with Jerry Garcia, and in 1980 he attended the premier for Willie Nelson's "Honeysuckle Rose."

Impresario Bill Graham selected Andrew and his "posse" to produce light shows at Fillmore West, where luminaries like B. B. King, the original Fleetwood Mac, and the Grateful Dead performed. Some of us will remember the Palo Alto nightclub, Homer's Warehouse, where Andrew launched new artists and provided venues for others.

What fun to learn more about this musical odyssey that connects so closely with Palo Alto's own history! Bring your copy of *California Slim*, for Andrew to sign after his talk.



Images on this page are courtesy of the A. Bernstein Collection: California Slim book cover, Sonny & Brownie poster (1972, art by Jake Pierre), and the portrait of the author, Andrew J. Bernstein.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Frank de M. Hill, M.D.

Jean & Ralph Libby  
Family Membership

SAVE THE DATE  
SAVE THE DATE  
SAVE THE DATE

# PAHA ANNUAL DINNER

at

*Ming's  
Restaurant*

Wednesday  
June 5, 2013

6:00 PM Social Hour  
7:00 PM Dinner

**“Turning Points  
in  
Palo Alto History”**

**with Larry Klein,  
Palo Alto City Council**

\*Reservations required  
\$50 per person  
Contributions are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

## The Palo Alto Golf Course

ON SATURDAY MAY 19, 1956, A FOURSOME OF COUNCILMEMBER Clifford Simpson, builder Joseph Eichler, sportswriter Walt Gamage and civic booster Bill Miller had a tee time at the new Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course. They were the first golfers to tee off on opening day.



FROM THE DESK OF  
THE HISTORIAN  
Steve Staiger

A golf course in the baylands was proposed as early as 1933, when City officials estimated that a 9-hole course could be constructed for \$75,000 (*PA Times*). The Stanford Golf Course had opened in 1930. By the end of World War II the idea for the baylands was accepted, but funds were tight. By 1953 the City had engaged architect William F. Bell as the designer. He and his father were known for their golf course designs in southern California such as Torrey Pines in San Diego and popular courses in the Los Angeles and Palm Springs areas.

The City accepted the plans with an estimated cost of \$225,000, provided that a citizens group raised at least 1/3 of the cost. As chair of the mayor's golf course committee, Bill Miller and his team went to work. The Lucie Stern estate contributed \$25,000, and the Elks Club provided \$2,500. The Palo Alto Clinic and



A group golf lesson at Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, 1957 (PAHA; Guy Miller Archives)

Hewlett-Packard each contributed \$500. A Moffett Field VR-3 squadron donated \$1,200 and the PALO Sports Club raised \$3,300. The committee reached their goal, and construction began in July 1954. The Palo Alto airport runway was realigned to make room for the 18-hole course built on 184 acres.

The clubhouse was built by Joseph Eichler as his contribution. The opening was delayed several months while two fairways were re-seeded due to salty soil conditions, a preview of what was to come. Although the golf course was built on land owned by the City of Palo Alto, it was actually in San Mateo County until the county line was adjusted in the 1960s. Pat Mahoney was the first golf pro at the new course. Soon after opening, Jimmy Saitta, the lunch counter concessionaire, applied to the State for permission to sell beer to his customers.

By the 1980s much of the course was below sea level. A \$5 million renovation project in the 1990s raised many of the fairways and greens on beds of sand. In July of 1999, the reopening of a much improved course was celebrated.

Now the golf course is about to undergo another renovation. Funded in part with flood control money, it will be re-designed to accommodate flood control needs plus several athletic playing fields. As I write this column the exact date had not yet been determined to start the work. The cost is \$7.5 million.

In 1956, a round of golf cost \$1.50 during the week and \$2.50 on weekends. The most recent posted fees are \$39 during the week and \$49 on weekends.



# Let's Go to the Places We Love

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RESTAURANT?** I do. For me, it is Jing Jing on Emerson. Modest, frugal, dependable, always there. Food is pretty good, and they make up what you like, if it is not on the menu. They seem glad to see me, too.



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
John Hackmann

And I like the white tablecloths, and they let you talk as long as you like. In the recession, I try to go there more. Even tip more, when I feel I can.

Jing Jing makes me think of the history I can enjoy now, things I want to “just keep being there.” Like Bell’s Books, which I cannot imagine never being there, with its 250,000 books, and good heads to talk to. I went there to buy my very own *Origin of the Species*, and wanted to see how Darwin’s own thing evolved. Bell’s also had the clue, that these were originally his grandfather’s ideas! In another book, that clue was in a book with a poem...

So let’s go to the places we love, often! For me, I guess that would include the Friends of the Palo Alto



Faith Bell at Bell’s Bookstore, 1989  
(PAHA: Guy Miller Archives)

Library sale, every second weekend each month; Palo Alto Sport Shop & Toy World on Waverley, Hassett’s Ace Hardware for the beginning of chore day, and Round Table Pizza (just ‘cause it seems so Midwestern). And, now, I have added Peet’s just as my friends, my younger friends, are exiting to Philz!

I never did fish off the dock. Or run out with the Sea Scouts. Many of you did. But I did take a rubber dingy out from Redwood City harbor, and saw harbor seals, horned owls, and sailing trips in training. The Sea Scouts just got a new 65-foot ship donated. Shall we take an excursion? Let’s see history in the making.

And PAHA programs, are for me, a “history” I enjoy learning, and being part of. See you there! Our History, our PAHA, let’s keep it going!



Sea Scout Base, Palo Alto baylands, 1941  
(PAHA: Guy Miller Archives)



A blooming orchard in Palo Alto, 1948.  
(PAHA: Guy Miller Archives)

## Mayfield’s Bayside Cannery

Before “apps” there were “cots.” Not only apricots, but pears, prune plums, peaches, tomatoes and spinach. When Mayfield’s Safeway Cannery closed in 1949, it had 1,000 or more workers and a payroll of over a million dollars (equivalent to nearly \$20 million today), and was Palo Alto’s largest employer. The cannery’s main building still lives on at the end of Portage Avenue, and is now occupied by Fry’s Electronics and several other businesses. —Doug Graham

### FROM THE EDITORS—

Authors, Jeanne Far McDonnell and Doug Graham, are currently working on a new history of Mayfield. Each month they post a “snippet” of their work in the *Tall Tree*—like the one above—to catch your interest. Look for the book in spring 2014!

Other books recently published by PAHA are *Lucie Stern* and *Palo Alto Remembered*. Both are available at local bookstores and online through Bell’s Books, [www.bellsbooks.com](http://www.bellsbooks.com). You can also find them on sale at monthly PAHA programs. Pick up a copy!

**Oral Histories:** are an invaluable method to preserve local history. To volunteer, help record, or give an oral history, contact: Carol Mitchell at [carolmitchell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolmitchell@sbcglobal.net).



## Heritage Program on Channel 30

The April television feature will be “Let’s Talk Tree,” the Palo Alto Historical Association’s April 7 program presented by arborist John Henry McClenahan, Vice President of S.P. McClenahan. The broadcast schedule is Wednesdays at 8:00 PM, Thursdays at 10:30 AM, and Saturdays at 1:00 PM.

*Our mission is to collect, preserve and make available to the public information about the history of Palo Alto.*

## History Jaunts

**Repair Lamps, Lawnmowers, and More: April 21, July 21 & October 12, 11 AM–3 PM.** The Museum of American Heritage at various times sponsors a Repair Café where participants bring broken household items to repair, if possible, with the help of volunteers. The events are popular—so plan ahead. MOAH allows one item per person (no CD or DVD players or microwave ovens). If small parts are needed, the person who attends pays for them.

**9th Annual Vintage Vehicles and Family Festival: May 4, 9:30 AM–2:30 PM.** This free event is hosted by MOAH in collaboration with Palo Alto's May Fete Parade & Fair. Unique vintage cars will be on display. Also, MOAH will feature Meccano models, and the exhibition, "From Fiber to Fabric: A History of American Textile Production." Information: [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org) or 650-321-1004.

**Lace Museum, now through June 22.** Lace was a fine art for many generations. Exquisitely designed samples in the "Frills, Fripperies and Finery" exhibit of handmade women's accessories from 1840 to 1914, will be displayed. The address is 552 S. Murphy in Sunnyvale, open Tuesday–Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Information: 408-730-4695.

**Saratoga's Heritage Exhibit, now through May 2013:** More than a century ago, Saratoga marked the end of a drought and the beauty of endless orchards in bloom with a festival, which continued annually, 1900–1940. A free exhibition recalls that event and the agricultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley. Saratoga History Museum, 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Open 1–4 PM. Information: 408-867-4311, [www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com).

## Become a Member of PAHA

We invite you to become a member of the Association and join those who care about Palo Alto and enjoy learning about its history. Your dues support the preservation of our archives, assistance to researchers and dissemination of Palo Alto historical information through our publications. Join today!

Individual \$25      Family \$40  
Sustaining \$60      Business/Sponsor \$100      Life \$350

Make check payable to PAHA and mail to: PAHA Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Or join online at [pahistory.org](http://pahistory.org). Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee. (Note: current members will receive renewal notices in July.)

## PAHA's Public Meetings

Meetings, free and open to the public, are held on Sundays at the Lucie Stern Community Center 1305 Middlefield Road.

The next meetings are:

MAY 5

*California Slim; Music, Magic and Madness* with Palo Alto author, Andrew J. Bernstein

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5  
PAHA Annual Dinner

"Turning Points in Palo Alto History" with Larry Klein, Palo Alto City Council  
Reservations required:

\$50 per person

### PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Hackmann, *President*  
Gwen Barry, *First Vice President*  
Joyce McClure, *Second Vice President*  
Bardy Wallace, *Secretary*  
Chris Botsford, *Treasurer*  
Steve Staiger, *Historian*  
Matt Bowling      Larry Christenson  
Brian George      Betty Gerard  
Georgie Gleim      Douglas Graham  
Mary Beth Cebedo Lefebvre  
Marilyn McDonald  
Jeanne McDonnell      Leah McGarrigle  
Carol Clifford Mitchell      Diane Rolfe  
Harriette Shakes      Kent Stormer  
Jerry Tinney      Tom Wyman

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

Jeanne McDonnell, Peggy McKee,  
Mary Beth Cebedo Lefebvre  
*Editors*  
Harriette Shakes, *Design*  
Omega Printing, *Printing*

# Palo Alto Historical Association ANNUAL DINNER

## “Turning Points in Palo Alto History”



Mr. Klein, a graduate of Cornell University with a degree from Harvard Law School, has lived in Palo Alto since 1967. He served on the city council from 1981-89. After a hiatus from politics, Mr. Klein was elected in 2005 and re-elected in 2009. He served as mayor in 1984, 1989 and recently in 2008.

Guest Speaker:

**Larry Klein**

Palo Alto City Council Member

*Ming's Restaurant*

1700 Embarcadero, Palo Alto

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

6:00 PM: Social Hour

7:00 PM: Chinese Dinner



\$50 per person. Free parking is available for all.

*Everyone is welcome to attend*

**ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION**

Please mail this form with your check to:

**PAHA ANNUAL DINNER**

P.O. Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY PAHA NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2013 (\$50.00 PER PERSON).

Name(s)

Vegetarian?

_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

I/We wish to make # \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$50.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to make a tax deductible donation to PAHA: (Contributions are welcome! Anything in excess of the dinner price is tax deductible.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_