

100  
Palo Alto  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
1913~2013  
Years

# The Tall Tree Newsletter

of the PALO ALTO  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

December 2014 Volume 38, No 3

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \* REFRESHMENTS SERVED

## GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, December 7, 2:00-4:00 PM  
Lucie Stern Community Center  
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

*Hosted by Karen Holman, City Council Member*

## PAHA's Public Meetings

### GENERAL PROGRAM MEETINGS

are held monthly

2:00-4:00 PM

October - May  
at the

Lucie Stern Community Center  
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

### PAHA'S PUBLIC MEETINGS 2014

Sunday, December 7  
"Palo Alto Vignettes"

*Hosted by: Karen Holman*

### PAHA'S PUBLIC MEETINGS 2015

January 25

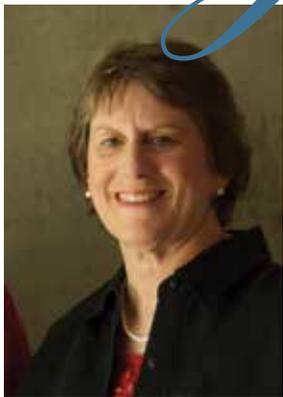
March 1

April 5

May 3

June: Annual Dinner (TBA)

# VIGNETTES PALO ALTO



KAREN HOLMAN  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER  
*Host of "Vignettes," PAHA's  
annual December program*

**HISTORY IS MADE OF TIME AND THE STORIES OF TIMES PAST,** be that time centuries, decades or moments ago. And how quickly moments past become years ago. Some would say that looking back is just that, looking back. I challenge us all to consider otherwise by recalling various famous, relevant quotes that lead us to think about how the past informs our current lives, helps us interpret our surroundings, and sets the stage for the future.

The families that have lived generations here have both stories and experiences that shed light on who we are as a social community and what we are as a built town: Why's and how's of this and that.

Last year we shifted the Vignettes program from individual stories to collected and mutually shared stories as a panel "Fireside Chat". Continuing this year, we are honored to have members of some of the early families of Palo Alto and Stanford relating the stories that detail their heritage... and ours.

If the names Mitchell, Clark, Marx, and Wilbur mean something to you, then you will not want to miss this occasion to eavesdrop on this sharing of family lore offered generously for your minds and hearts.

If these names do not conjure up pictures of Mitchell Park, Palo Alto utilities, Stanford presidents, and the Palo Alto Post Office, to name a few, then this event may be especially for you.

What did people at the turn of the 20th century do for summer vacation? Where did they go? What ingenuity was afoot in the 1890's? What were people reading? Come hear how things have changed over time. Or have they?

Join us in front of Lucie Stern's "living room" fireplace for a special day with special guests. We hope these stories may inspire your holiday season with friends and family.

# History Jaunts

**Mitchell Park Library and Community Center:** There will be a Grand Opening on Sat., Dec. 6 of Palo Alto's newest and largest library, 3700 Middlefield Rd. Ceremony at 11 AM, open to the public once the ribbon has been cut. Various activities are scheduled. More information available online. Other library branches will be closed that day.

**MOAH (Museum of American Heritage):** "A to Z" is the current exhibit, created from the museum's vast collection of artifacts from the late 1800s to the 1950s, and arranged alphabetically. One visitor especially liked T—toasters. Another fascinating T is typewriters, so intriguing in our computer era. The Museum owns about 5,000 electrical and mechanical devices as they changed from the late 1800s to the 1950s. Free admission, open Fri. Sat. Sun. 11 AM to 4:00 PM. "A to Z" will close March 15. 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, 650 321 1004.

**Canopy:** Palo Alto's tree group provides opportunities to learn about and contribute to the beauty and comfort of Palo Alto. Earlier this year 66 volunteers surveyed 556 trees, and found our urban forest to be well-managed. 65% of the trees checked have good or excellent health ratings, although the drought has been a challenge. There will be a tree planting Sat. Nov. 22, 9 AM – Noon at the Gunn High School Campus to assist students to plant 40 trees along the school's new student drop off area on Miranda Ave. Thurs., Dec. 11 AM, 3–5 PM, a panel of local experts will discuss recycled water projects and possibilities. The event is free, but guests are asked to RSVP at [info@canopy.org](mailto:info@canopy.org).

**San Mateo County History Museum:** "Holiday Traditions from Around the World" on Dec. 6, a day offered with free admission. Children will enjoy craft activities, such as making old-fashioned Christmas tree ornaments. At 1:00, the San Francisco State University Handbell Choir will perform some favorite holiday tunes. For more information, call 650 299 0104 or visit [www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org).

**Palo Alto Art Center** will be offering winter classes, registration starts Dec. 5 for Palo Alto residents and Dec. 12 for non-residents. The Center's classes and workshops bring out the artist in every child and act as a community hub for creative expression with weekly classes, special workshops, and drop-in programs. The Art Center is located at the corner of Embarcadero and Newell, more information available online.

## 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 make our work possible: we maintain the archives, assist researchers, and disseminate historical information through our publications and public programs. Your generosity will be appreciated for generations to come. 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: renewal notices were mailed to current members in November.)

## Heritage Program on Channel 30

PAHA's November 2014 public program will be on television in December, "Out of the File Cabinet into the Classroom: A PAHA Project" hosted by Brian Tuomy, teacher at Gunn HS.

Wednesdays: 8 PM  
Thursdays: 10:30 AM  
Saturdays: 1 PM

DVDs of previous programs can be borrowed at the Archives which are temporarily located at Cubberley, Room K-7. Hours: Tuesdays, 4–8 PM  
Thursdays, 1–5 PM

*Unless otherwise noted, images reproduced in the Tall Tree are from the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION archives.*

The Tall Tree is published eight times a year by the PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. In November, to honor our organizations 2013 Centennial, we mailed special booklets to current members and prospective members. Our mission is to collect, preserve and make available to the public information about the history of Palo Alto.



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