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THE ALAMEDA ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY



www.alameda-preservation.org

August, 2007

In this issue Historic Preservation Season, The Annual Woody Walk, Replacing the old street lamps . . .

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If you would like to join the AAPS or renew your membership, please send this portion back with your payment. Membership Chairperson Nancy Hird at 523.0825

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P.O. Box 1677, Alameda, CA 94501

AAPS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2007

Sunday, August 19
Annual "Woody Walk" with Woody Minor

Sunday, September 23
Alameda Legacy Home Tour

Sunday, October 28, 7 p.m.
John Dilks on Furniture and Interior Wood
Refinishing and Restoration

Sunday, December TBA
Annual AAPS Holiday Party

Woody Walks the West End

Woody Minor, Local Architectural Historian

Sunday, August 19, 2007, 3 p.m.

Meet at the corner of Webster Street and Taylor Avenue
(This will be our General Membership Meeting)

By Birgitt Evans

Please join AAPS and noted Alameda author and historian Woody Minor for another trip into the past as we explore the West End of Alameda. Our annual "Woody Walk" will take place on Sunday, August 19th from 3 to 5 P.M. We will meet in the parking lot on the corner of Webster Street and Taylor Avenue, across from the restored Santos Liquors.

We will begin this year's walk by exploring some of the notable commercial buildings on Webster Street, including Santos Liquors and Crolls, which housed the real estate office of Alameda Builder A.R. Denke. Then we will revisit Alameda's rich bathing resort tradition, including the sites of Neptune Beach, "the Coney Island of the West", Terrace Baths, Cottage Baths, and Surf Beach Park, as we stroll down Central Avenue to the Neptune Court Apartments, one of the last vestiges of Neptune Beach.



Historic Croll's Building, northeast corner of Webster St. and Central Ave.

Finally we will head into the West End's residential neighborhoods where we will see houses constructed in nearly every architectural style to be found on the island. Our walk will take us past Italianates, Sticks and Queen Annes. We will also encounter fine examples of the Colonial Revival, Craftsman and various Period Revival styles as we wind our way back to Webster Street.

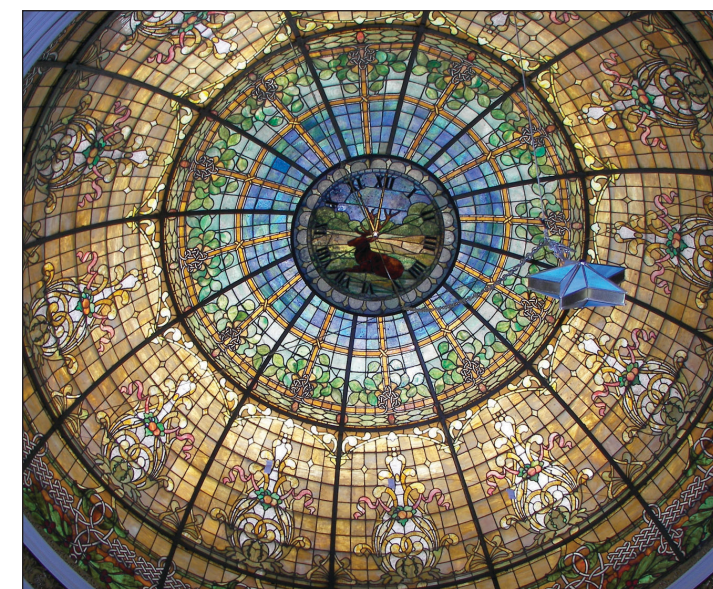
Last year's walk was both fun and informative, so please join us for a wonderful Sunday afternoon full of fresh air and history. The Woody Walk is free to AAPS members and \$5 for the general public.

Historic Preservation Season in Alameda

by Birgitt Evans

Here at AAPS, we like to think every season is historic preservation season, but this spring we joined an Historic Preservation Work Program Ad Hoc Committee comprised of City of Alameda staff, and Historic Advisory Board (HAB) and Alameda Museum members to put together a series of events to celebrate Historic Preservation Month during May.

The "Season" kicked off with a formal proclamation by the City Council declaring May as Historic Preservation Month and featured lectures at the Alameda Museum, a Restoration Retrospective in City Hall and a series of events around town that culminated with the 10th Annual AAPS Historic Preservation Awards on June 3rd. . . . continued on page 2



Stained glass dome in Elks Lodge



Dick Rutter leads Secret Spaces Tour

The Restoration Retrospective is comprised of ten panels featuring the homes and businesses of prior AAPS Preservation Awards winners and other restoration projects showing "before" and "after" pictures of each building. The retrospective is intended to inspire and encourage people to restore their buildings and was on display in the City Hall lobby during May, and exhibited at AAPS's June 3rd Preservation Awards presentation. The panels will be permanently installed in the Planning and Building Department's counter area where they will hopefully provide inspiration to property owners, contractors and developers. We encourage you to go see them as they feature some fabulous photos of some amazing properties.

Among the events sponsored by the Ad Hoc committee was a walking tour of Leonardville led by Alameda historian Woody Minor and a reprise Ken Matthias' stained glass lecture and bicycle tour to visit a number of stained glass windows about town, affectionately dubbed "Critical Glass".

AAPS members Richard Rutter and Chris Buckley led the sold out "Secret Spaces and Private Places" tour which took participants to see the stained glass dome in the Elks Lodge; the theater and marvelous details of the Veterans' Memorial building, designed by famed Alameda architect Henry Meyers; the historically sensitive conversion of the Vogue theater into Calvary Baptist Church; and the magnificent interiors of the Masonic Lodge.

This tour was so well received that we are already working on a follow up as part of another Historic Preservation Season for next year. If you are interested in participating please contact Chris Buckley at cbuckley@alamedanet.net or 510-523-0411.



Historic Pendant Style Streetlights Being Replaced

You may have noticed the historic pendant style street lights being replaced on Pacific Avenue between Main and 4th Streets. AP&T is doing this because the old cast iron poles are rusting out. The new fixtures are fiberglass. However, the new fixtures are not quite the same as the original fixtures. Among other things, the base is larger and the bottom of the shaft directly above the base is narrower, creating an awkward transition. Because the street lights are official City of Alameda Historical Monuments, their replacement requires approval by the Historical Advisory Board. AAPS is working with the City to ensure that the new fixtures visually match the originals.

Historic Preservation Work Program

by Christopher Buckley

In addition to the Historic Preservation Season activities, the Ad Hoc Committee developed a draft Historic Preservation Work Program. Some of the program's elements include:

- Establish a plaque or marker program for historic properties;
- Create a comprehensive permanent exhibit of Alameda history and architecture;
- Develop an on-line Citywide database with historic property information for each property, including the 1979 survey photos (as a first step) and also construction date, architect and builder, if known;
- Develop a historic building materials source list and make samples of appropriate materials available, such as windows, siding products and moldings;
- Determine feasibility of a Mills Act contract program to provide property tax incentives for restoration of historic properties;
- Develop project criteria and a priority rating system for the City's rehabilitation assistance program, including façade grants, for historic properties;
- Provide a centralized research center for historic buildings (City archive) in collaboration with AAPS, the Alameda Museum, and Main Library;
- Prepare a citywide commercial design review manual that includes the historic preservation concepts in the Guide to Residential Design and the Webster Street Design Review Manual; and
- Conduct a detailed survey of 1850s through 1870s buildings.

Most of the items on this list were provided by AAPS to the HAB last fall. The work program is a still a draft and will be presented soon to the HAB for adoption.

AAPS would like to thank Planning and Building Director Cathy Woodbury, who initiated the Ad Hoc Committee and made sure that it completed its work, as well as members of her staff who assisted with the Historic Preservation Season activities.

Do I Need a Building Permit?

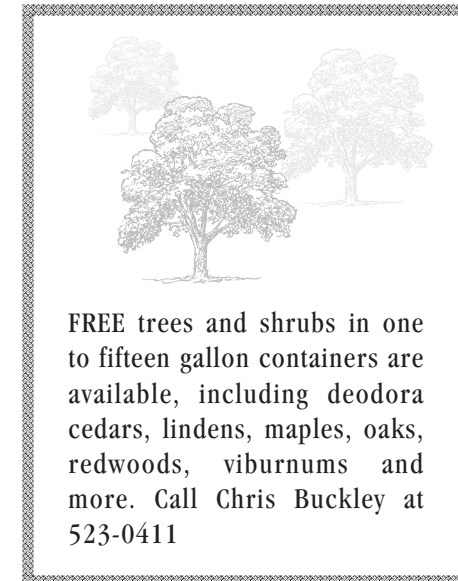
Many Alamedans don't realize that they need a building permit for almost all remodeling projects other than painting. Also a Design Review for any exterior changes requiring a building permit other than (a) reroofing and (b) changes which "match" the existing building. And some unscrupulous contractors are happy to lead homeowners astray.

In addition, any exterior changes to residential structures requiring Design Review must comply with the Guide to Residential Design, which can be found on the City of Alameda website - http://www.ci.alameda.ca.us/planning/pdf/Guide_to_Residential_Design_3-14-05.pdf.

If you have any questions about permit requirements or remodeling your home, you should phone the Planning and Building Department (510-747-6850) or AAPS (510-986-9232), before you take out your wood windows or remove your shiplap siding.

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Preservation Action Committee meets at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month to address issues important to the architectural preservation of the City of Alameda. Committee meetings are open to all AAPS members. If you would like to attend a meeting or would like more information, please call Chris Buckley at 510.523.0411. We are making an impact within the community. It's fun and informative. We encourage all members to get involved!



FREE trees and shrubs in one to fifteen gallon containers are available, including deodora cedars, lindens, maples, oaks, redwoods, viburnums and more. Call Chris Buckley at 523-0411

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For more information, please contact:
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ALAMEDA MUSEUM LECTURES 2007

Thursday, August 30: Architectural historian Betty Marvin "becomes" Julia Morgan, architect of San Simeon. Underwritten by Nancy Anderson AIA of Dahlin Group Architecture and Planning.

Thursday, September 27: Art historian and enthusiast Colette Collester on the art of Paul Cezanne (1839-1906) "Cezanne and his beloved hometown of Aix-en-Provence." Underwritten by Rosemary McNally, Realtor, Kane & Associates.

NOTE: Lecture topics may change. Watch the *Alameda Sun* or leave a message, 748.0796. All lectures start at 7:00 p.m. 2324 Alameda Avenue near Park Street. Admission is free for Museum members, \$5 for others.

AAPS Newsletter Editor

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