

# THE ALAMEDA ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY



www.alameda-preservation.org

January, 2008

## Creative Solutions to Preservation Problems

Presented by Christopher L. Yerke—Restoration Workshop

Sunday, February 10, 7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

(Corner of Santa Clara Avenue & Chestnut Street)

Parking available behind the church, enter from Santa Clara • Doors open at 6:30 PM • \$5 for non-members

Landmarks, Lead, Fire, Flood, and Fungus—Creative Solutions to Preservation Problems as Seen through the Lens of San Francisco's Spencer House *by Christopher Buckley*



Chris Yerke with finial

*Mr. Yerke won the California Preservation Foundation's 2005 Preservation Design Awards for Craftsmanship for the exterior restoration of the Spencer House.*

Restoration contractor and carpenter Chris Yerke shares tall tales of a tall house, touching upon clever solutions to common preservation issues as seen through the extensive restoration of the fabulous Spencer House in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. Knowledge will be imparted and secrets shared that just might make more folks restore their own houses. Come learn how to address a wide range of preservation challenges, including paint jobs that will last, restoring deteriorated woodwork, lead abatement, and the endless bliss of keeping peace with the neighbors.

Restoration Workshop is the creation of Christopher Yerke, a San Francisco based general contractor and woodworker with 20 years of trade and craft experience. Restoration Workshop was created to be a repository of rapidly disappearing, historical craft and construction knowledge. Their services include restoration and preservation project management, exceptional finish carpentry, fine custom furniture fabrication, preservation and landmarks consulting, and general remodeling. Restoration Workshop also maintains a "library" of highly figured domestic woods for use in fabrication of custom furnishings and restoration of buildings.



San Francisco's Spencer House

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# PRESERVATION ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

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## Preservation Alert! It's zero hour for Alameda Naval Air Station Historic District!

by Beth Krase

Watch for the preservation alert postcard announcing the date of the next community meeting.

Alameda's proud maritime heritage from World War II is threatened. AAPS members need to make their voices heard and tell SunCal and the City that Alamedans care about their architectural heritage by attending SunCal's next public meeting. Otherwise key buildings at the Alameda Naval Air Station (NAS) could be lost forever. This could be our last chance to take a stand for preservation!

The next public meeting has been postponed by SunCal until late February or early March 2008 to discuss Development Alternatives for the former NAS, now called Alameda Point. The last workshop on December 13 was well attended by the public, however, the workshop was conducted in a way that divided up and lessened the impact of the AAPS message.

At the December 13 workshop, SunCal presented two conceptual alternatives, Alternative A which would comply with Measure A, and Alternative B, which would require changing Measure A for Alameda Point. (see maps included.) Alternative A would remove approximately 17 important buildings, plus all 19 of the Big Whites Officers' houses and all 30 of the Non-Commissioned Officers' houses. The Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ) would also be removed under Alternative A. Alternative B would remove approximately 16 important buildings, but would leave in place the Big Whites and the BOQ and NCO houses.

All but one of the seaplane hangars and the former Air Terminal (now used as the NAS Museum) would be removed under both alternatives. This would change a very significant vista of the NAS, where the five Seaplane Hangars and the Flight Control Tower and Air Terminal all face the Seaplane Lagoon. The combination of a protected body of water where seaplanes could take off and land in a variety of weather conditions along with conventional airplane facilities are what brought the Navy to Alameda in 1936.

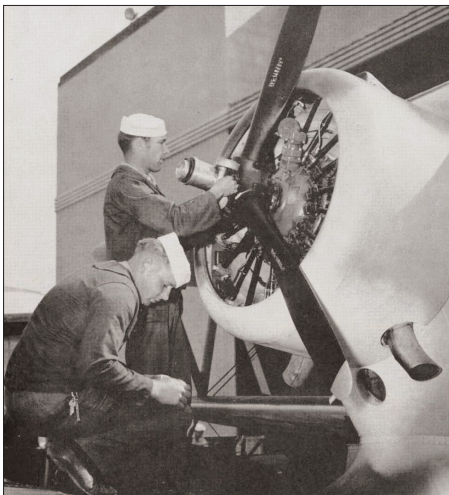
AAPS considers these buildings to be extremely important for conveying the importance of NAS Alameda to future generations and strongly opposes their removal.

Several AAPS members who attended the December 13 workshop were concerned that attendees were provided with insufficient information and little time for review to make a well-considered choice. Many felt that the information provided was slanted in favor of Alternative B, with undocumented promises of transit and services. There was no information on how the historic buildings might be reused or why so many were proposed for removal. One public comment, offered at least twice, was "quality, not quantity of historic buildings," without explaining what this really meant. What makes Alameda NAS significant is not only the administrative complex in the Streamline Moderne style and laid out in a formal landscaped quad, but also the role that the NAS played in World War II as home to Jimmy Doolittle's Raiders and as the base to which our wounded soldiers were brought by seaplane.

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*Right: View looking west at the series of monumental seaplane hangars, Alameda Naval Air Station.*

*Below: Sailors repairing aircraft at NAS, 1945*





SunCal is asking for public input on what's important to us and what we want to see at Alameda Point and we need to tell them! Specific buildings proposed for demolition under one or both alternatives which AAPS hopes to see reused are:

- The seaplane hangars; possible reuses are a supermarket, parking garage, storage for industrial equipment or stage sets and movie props, along with the existing Bladium sports facility. These buildings offer huge clearspan indoor spaces that would be irreproducible today.
- Building 77, the former Air Terminal which is being reused as the NAS Museum.
- The BOQ, which could be reused as senior housing, a hotel, or assisted living. Note that these uses would comply with Measure A.
- The Big Whites, which can continue to be used as unique and distinguished homes.
- The WAVES Barracks, which could be moved anywhere on base and reused as offices or for a variety of uses.



*Sailors marching at NAS, 1945*

Please check the Alameda Point website ([www.alamedapointcommunity.com/meeting/](http://www.alamedapointcommunity.com/meeting/)) to confirm the meeting date and attend the community meeting and tell SunCal and the City that Alameda is a city that values its heritage and that Alamedans consider their World War II heritage worthy of preservation. This will be one of most critical meetings in the entire development process. We need you to speak up in favor of saving more of the historic buildings before it's too late!

## Join the Effort to Help Slow Global Warming by Christopher Buckley

Enclosed in this newsletter is a checklist of "sustainable" actions you can take to help slow global warming. This list contains several easy things we can do as part of our daily routines to promote resource conservation. It was kindly prepared by AAPS member Joyce Mercado. Items can be checked off as projects are completed and habits are changed. Many of us have already posted this on our refrigerators. The front side is a comprehensive, practical list of specific actions. Most of the items can actually help the family budget and some introduce a little more exercise into daily life. The back notes local resources.

AAPS is circulating the checklist because resource conservation and historic preservation are inherently intertwined. One of the "green" things one can do is reuse an existing building rather than building new, given all of the embodied energy in

an existing building, i.e. the energy required to extract a building's raw materials and to manufacture, transport and install these materials, and the additional energy needed to construct a new building.

Historic preservation becomes even greener if an existing building is retrofitted with the energy conservation measures described in the checklist. Retaining original materials in an existing building is also usually greener because they are often higher quality, last longer and have other benefits. For example, wood in older buildings, including wood windows, is usually taken from older trees than is the case today and therefore has more of the rot resistant "hard" dark grain. Similarly, lath and plaster insulates better than sheetrock and adds seismic resistance.

AAPS hopes that you will find the checklist useful and inspirational. Kudos to Joyce for preparing it!

## Review a Book, Make Some Bucks!

*by Rachel Bennett*

Blue Rectangle is a new bookstore in Alameda, owned by longtime Alamedans, Joy and Mike Johnson, themselves passionate about historic preservation. They have an enticing proposition for AAPS members, and our friends and families: Review a book by March 10th and get \$10 in store credit as well as a \$10 donation made to the AAPS.

Before opening a storefront in Alameda, Blue Rectangle established an online presence selling books, and offering a collection of video-based reviews by real people like you having a say about what they've recently read. They have the book review process down, and it takes only 5 – 10 minutes to do in the store at 1355 Park Street.

Here's how it works:

- Review any book you've recently read – it doesn't need to be one purchased at Blue Rectangle, and it doesn't need to be on architectural preservation.

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## Review a Book, Make some Bucks

*continued from page 3. . .*

- Your friends and families can also do reviews on behalf of the AAPS.
- Book time to record your review by calling 510-430-2577 x 204, and mention you're doing this for the AAPS.
- When you arrive at the store for your scheduled appointment, a friendly employee will take you upstairs where the camera is set up. They

guide you through the review process by asking questions.

- The piece is edited down to two minutes, and then posted on their website along with the more than 500 reviews already posted. Your name will not be used.
- You will receive \$10 in store credit for each review, which can be used to purchase more books, as well as records (yes, actual vinyl), VHS tapes and DVDs.

- Blue Rectangle will allot \$10 to the AAPS for every review done as part of this promotion.

You can do this for up to three books – that would be \$30 for you and \$30 for the AAPS. Blue Rectangle will present a check to the AAPS at a future event.

This is a great and fun way to make some extra spending money, as well as raise funds for the AAPS.

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## Historic Preservation Season in Alameda

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Last year, at the urging of Planning and Building director Cathy Woodbury, a subcommittee sprang to life staffed by members of the Historical Advisory Board (HAB), the Alameda Museum and AAPS. The group organized the best ever celebration of Historic Preservation month. Usually the fantod is in May; last year we had so many events that it grew into a season. Here are the activities underway for this year.

### 2008 Theme:

"Preservation is Good Business"

**Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.:** "Alameda Civic Center," a slide lecture by author and historian Woody Minor, sponsored by the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. Free for Museum members, \$5 for others.

**Tuesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.:** City Council proclaims Historic Preservation Season! (because we have too many events to fit into one month) Note: See part of the "Restoration Retrospective" exhibit in the hallway on the ground floor of City Hall. Sponsored by the Historical Advisory Board. Free.

**Saturday, May 3, 1-3 p.m., "Kids & Queen Victoria,"** eleventh annual art show with work from sixteen elementary classes, opening reception featuring Alameda Unified School District Superintendent Ardella Dailey and Queen Victoria. Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. Sponsored by Alameda Education Foundation and the Alameda Museum. Free.

**Saturday, May 10, "Sacred Spaces,"** an exploration of churches in the Park Street Historic District led by architect Richard Rutter. Meeting place and time TBA. Limited to 40 participants. Reservations and comfortable shoes are required. Many stairs, limited handicap access. Reserve a slot by leaving a message at 748.0796 by May 6. Sponsored by the Historical Advisory Board. Free.

**Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. starting place TBA, "Walkabout on Webster,"** led by author and historian Woody Minor. Sponsored by the Historical

Advisory Board. Free. (Note: This walk originated last year when Woody prepared it for AAPS members.)

**Saturday, May 24, 1-4 p.m.:** Meyers House open to the public; docents to lead tours, 2021 Alameda Avenue, admission \$3.

**Saturday, May 31, 7:00 p.m.:** "Strolling Historic Park Street," a slide lecture by authors Dennis Evanosky and Eric Kos. Sponsored by the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. Free for Museum members, \$5 for others.

**Date TBA 7:00 p.m.:** Eleventh Annual Historic Preservation Awards presented by the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS), First Presbyterian church, Santa Clara Avenue and Chestnut Street. Free.

For information leave a message at 748.0796.

*The last passenger train to run in Alameda stopped at the Park Street Station in 1954. Image from 'Alameda By Rail' by Grant Ute and Bruce Singer.*



# AAPS to Start Electronic Newsletter

By Nancy Hird

In the past few years, AAPS has received member requests that we send electronic versions of our newsletter instead of the paper version. Each time we have looked into doing this, we have been stopped by the lack of e-mail addresses we have for our members. Until recently, we only have had 33% of member e-mail addresses. Now, we are up to 50% and are ready to offer members who have a valid e-mail address on file with AAPS a notification via e-mail that the newsletter is posted on our web site. (Sending the newsletter via e-mail requires too much bandwidth for timely and efficient transmission.)

If you want to participate in receiving notification, please make sure we have

your most current and correct e-mail address. You can send it to [nancy@alamedanet.net](mailto:nancy@alamedanet.net) or make sure it is legibly printed on your renewal.

Once you receive notification the newsletter is posted, you will be directed to our web page. If you would like to revert back to snail mail receipt of the newsletter, please let me know.

If anyone would be interested in working with the Membership Committee to help AAPS conserve on paper through this new service, please let me know. I would like one person to maintain the e-mail address membership list and we can work together to make that happen.

Thanks to everyone who has urged us to pursue electronic transmission over the past few years. We appreciate everyone's efforts to conserve paper, oil and energy as well as helping us to save printing and postage expense.



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

## 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!*

### AAPS Board Members 2008

President	Christopher Buckley	523.0411
1st Vice President	Jeannie Graham	769.9287
2nd Vice President	Valerie Turpen	522.3734
Treasurer	Bob Risley	864.1103
Corresponding Secretary	Holly Sellers	521.2299
Recording Secretary	Kevis Brownson	522.4966
Member at Large	Rachel Bennett	748.9470
Advisor to the Board	Nancy Hird	523.0825

*For more information, please contact:*

*Alameda Architectural Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1677  
Alameda, CA 94501 510.986.9232 [www.alameda-preservation.org](http://www.alameda-preservation.org)*

## Alameda Museum Lectures 2008

● **Thursday March 27: "Julia Morgan, Architect."** Architectural historian Betty Marvin repeats her stellar impersonation of the renowned architect. While Miss Morgan is best known for her work at San Simeon for William Randolph Hearst, she was also responsible for some dozen homes in Alameda. Underwritten by Nancy Anderson AIA of Dahlin Group Architecture and Planning; chair, Historical Advisory Board and member, Alameda Museum Board.

● **Thursday April 24: "Alameda's Civic Center,"** by local hero Woody Minor (or other topic TBA). Underwritten by Ginger Schuler; member, Alameda Museum Board; Realtor, Harbor Bay.

● **Thursday May 29: "A Stroll Down Historic Park Street"** presented by Dennis Evanovsky and Eric Kos in honor of Historic Preservation month. See stunning then and now images of the Park Street Historical Commercial District. Underwritten by the law office of Gina Mariani.

● **Thursday June 26: "Eccentrics, Heroes, and Cutthroats of Old Berkeley,"** another magical tome about the legacy of "Bersekeley" by Richard Schwartz, a perennial Museum lecture circuit favorite. Underwritten by Robbie Dileo, member, Alameda Museum Board.

All lectures take place at the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue off Park Street. The Museum opens at 6:30 p.m. on lecture nights. Come by early to save a seat and enjoy the exhibits in the History Gallery and the contemporary work in the Art Gallery. Lectures are free for Museum members and \$5 for others. For lecture information leave a message at 510.748.0796.

### AAPS Newsletter Editor

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In this issue   Restoration Workshop with Chris Yerke, Preservation Season & Museum Calendars, PAC Report ...

## AAPS Membership Coupon

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ renewal                      ☐ new member

Check your Membership category:

☐ Family \$30                      ☐ Partner \$100

☐ Single \$25                      ☐ Sponsor \$250

☐ Student \$5                      ☐ Patron \$500

☐ Seniors \$10                      ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 1677, Alameda, CA 94501

## AAPS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS for 2008

**Sunday, February 10**

Christopher Yerke—Creative Solutions  
to Preservation Problems

**Sunday, April 27**

Grant Ute - Alameda by Rail

**Sunday, June 1**

Preservation Awards

**August, TBD**

Walk with Woody Minor