

# VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

## THE OLD HOME FOLKS

VOL. 48 ... MARCH 2022 ... No. 2



### SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM TOUR

*by Sara Bruce*

Please join us Tuesday evening, March 22 for a tour of San Jose’s new Fire Museum. The tour begins at 7:00pm, but we will have snacks and wine available from 6:30 for those who would like to socialize before the tour.

It’s been too long since we got together for an in-person history event, and this one is sure to be a *hot time!*

The museum is located in Old Fire Station No. 1 on North Market Street at St. James Street (next door to the active Fire Station No. 1). Parking is available at the rear from North San Pedro Street.

The museum serves to preserve the history of San Jose’s fire department (established in 1854) and educate the public on its history through displays of fire-fighting equipment and memorabilia. Museum volunteers restore and maintain vintage fire engines and other apparatus. Learn more at their website, <http://www.sjfiremuseum.org/>

Because of our recently revised COVID guidelines, masks are not required, but are, of course, always appreciated.



Parking at Rear Through Gate on N. San Pedro St.

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

Lent is upon us and being brought up Catholic, I should give up some things in my life as a form of repentance. But living through the COVID lockdown, we have all already had a long stretch of sacrifice, life reduced to the essentials. I've already given up a few things for good, like superhero movies and cleaning my yard. Perhaps I should consider giving up euphoric beverages or anything that could lead to dancing. Instead, I choose to give up sadness and regret and try something else. But one thing I can never give up is my joy of shopping for antiques. Hullene and I stand defiant to our kids who will not stop saying that we have enough...they don't get it.

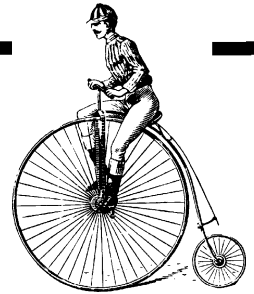
Hullene noticed online that some of the antique fairs will be returning this year. So, with mask on and booster shot done we will get back to driving our kids nutty with more cool stuff. We will again attend the PAC yard sales and take an occasional trip to vintage shops on our way back and forth to Reno where we have to check on the progress of a property renovation. I am also currently speaking with Craig at Antiques Colony to see if we can do another antique crawl this spring. Craig wants to bring back the scavenger hunt, which was a ton of fun when we did that a few years ago.

As well as the Antique Crawl the Board will be working this year to bring more educational programs and speakers for our monthly events. I have lined up a Stained Glass presentation by Marc Haeger. Mark Adams, who did the historic typewriter presentation during COVID is willing to do it in person later this year. Another thing I like about Mark Adams is that he takes classic poems by famous writers and puts them to music. It is most entertaining.

I must say that in the months to come what I am looking forward to the most is seeing all of you. I have said before that the friendships we have built through this club is the thing I most treasure. A close second is seeing our houses and projects. It seems that even with COVID and the labor and material shortage some of us have still found a way for a new project or restoration. Ask me about our basement.

When I was young, I remember the nuns wanting to help me through my "Spiritual Journey" during lent. Funny, I am still trying to understand that term. Sometimes it seems like we are just trying to cross the street before the light turns red. In the end, I have my family, my antiques and all of you.

**Have You  
Heard  
the Latest?**



### Last Chance for Membership Renewals

The Renewal Form is on page 3. If you have any questions about your membership status, please send me an email at [michaeltierney1@gmail.com](mailto:michaeltierney1@gmail.com)

### Clockwork Alchemy

Clockwork Alchemy, the Bay Area's steampunk con is scheduled to take place – LIVE!—on March 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame. I'll be there selling my books as well as giving some presentations on Victorian Architecture and Engineering, as well as Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days". Stop by the Authors Alley if you attend! For more info, go to [www.clockworkalchemy.com](http://www.clockworkalchemy.com)

*Contributing to this Issue:  
Sara Bruce, & Marcus Salomon*

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**

**JANUARY 30**



**Vintage Cocktail Corner**  
*by Sara Bruce*

**The Sazerac**

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is over for this year, but unless you gave up drinking for Lent you can still enjoy the official cocktail of New Orleans, *The Sazerac*.

This drink is thought to date from about 1850 and takes its name from *Sazerac de Forge et Fils* Cognac Brandy, a brand imported at that time. Legend says the drink was first served by local apothecary, Antoine Amédée Peychaud, who mixed his proprietary bitters with cognac as a medicine, but this is probably just a story. It is more likely that the drink originated in the Sazerac Coffee House, owned by Aaron Bird, where it became a very popular house cocktail. In 1895 they even bottled it.

Time has seen variations in the recipe. In the 1870s Rye Whiskey became widely used due to a shortage of Cognac. Today Cognac and Rye are both popular. The Sazerac first appeared in print in 1908 but that recipe called for Selner Bitters (no longer made) rather than Peychaud's. When Absinth became illegal in the US in 1912, various anise-flavored liquors were substituted.

To make:

Pour a very small amount of Absinth into a chilled cocktail glass. Turn and tip the glass to coat the inside and then discard any excess.

Stir together with ice:

- 1-1/2 oz Rye Whiskey or Cognac
- 1 teaspoon simple syrup (or sugar)
- 3 dashes Peychaud's Bitters

Strain the drink into the prepared glass.

Garnish with a lemon twist.

Note: If you don't have Peychaud's Bitters you can substitute Angostura Bitters; it will still taste good but it won't really be a Sazerac.

Cheers!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Once again it's time to remind everyone that it is time to renew your VPA membership. For 2022, VPA dues are still \$25 per household. To see if you owe dues for 2022 (some people pay ahead...), look at your newsletter address label. If it says 2022 in the upper right corner, you owe dues for 2022.

Please fill out the renewal form below and return it in the with dues payable to VPA. You can also pay dues through Paypal at the VPA website at <https://www.vpa.org/join-the-vpa/> (button at the bottom of the page).

**2022 VPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (important!) \_\_\_\_\_

Paper copy of newsletter? (Y/N)

Electronic copy of newsletter? (Y/N)

Do you want to be added to the VPA Google Group? (Y/N)

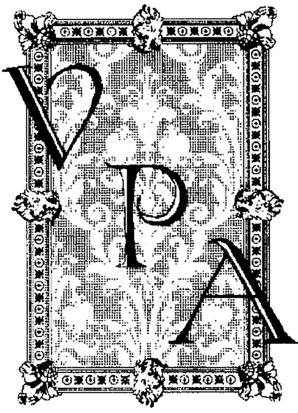
Special Interests, Expertise, Description of House

Suggestions/ideas for monthly meeting topics

Recommendations for VPA Source List:

VPA Address:

Victorian Preservation Association  
PO Box 586  
San Jose, CA 95106-0586



VICTORIAN  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION  
of Santa Clara Valley

P.O. Box 586  
San Jose, CA 95106-0586

## UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

March 22 VPA March event, see p. 1 for more details.

Visit the VPA Web site at:  
<http://www.vpa.org>

On Facebook, search "VPA".

For newsletter information, email:  
[newsletter@vpa.org](mailto:newsletter@vpa.org)

## ABOUT THE VPA

Members of the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara Valley, a nonprofit organization, share an interest in the older buildings of our community, especially turn-of-the-century homes. Membership is open to anyone interested in learning about building and conservation techniques, architecture, decoration, and historic preservation. Meetings are usually held in members' historic homes, but being an owner of one of these homes is not required for membership. Membership is \$25 per year per household. To join the club, go to [www.vpa.org](http://www.vpa.org) and click on the "Join the VPA" button.

### Officers

President	Marcus Salomon
Vice-President	Sara Bruce
Secretary	Mike Tierney
Treasurer	Larry Ames
Past-President	Keith Shukait

### At Large Board

Hullene Salomon	Dave Hedges
Pam Shukait	Diana Tone Adams

### Committee Contacts

Newsletter	Mike Tierney
Membership	Hullene Salomon
Social Media	Miranda von Stockhausen
Historian	Manuel Lima
Name Badges	Hullene Salomon