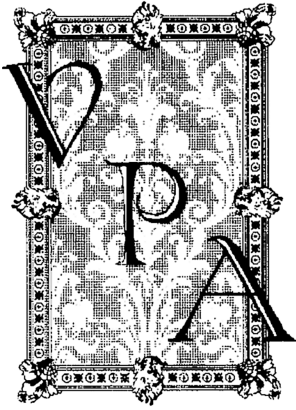


**VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY**



**THE
OLD HOME FOLKS**

VOL. 48 ... SEPTEMBER 2022 ... No. 8

COME ENJOY QUINTESSENTIAL WILLOW GLEN

by Larry Ames

Come celebrate the 95th anniversary of the founding of the town of Willow Glen with a short walking tour of some of Willow Glen's oldest streets, Willow and Glenn, followed by a potluck in the backyard of longtime VPA member, Larry Ames: 1218 Willow St – at the corner of Willow and Glenn (!)

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022:

- * a quick house tour at 4 PM
- * a leisurely history talk and walking tour of Willow, Cherry, and Glenn starting at 4:30
- * and a backyard potluck starting around 6.

Larry and his late wife, Liv, bought their 1925 “Mediterranean Bungalow” in 1979, just two weeks after first arriving in San José. As they moved to California at the height of the energy crisis, they chose to live in Willow Glen rather than out in the suburbs: they wanted an interesting and walkable neighborhood where they could buy groceries or eat dinner without being dependent on a car. The only house in the area they could afford was a real “fixer upper,” which they then spent years (decades!) repairing, restoring, and refinishing virtually every surface in the house – often using techniques they’d learned at VPA events.

The house, like the neighborhood (and the owner!), has lots of, um, “character”: it has two front doors (and five(!) back doors); every room has at least two doors (even the bathroom!); and even the backyard has two gates. It has arched windows and hardwood floors – and a basement door inspired by an old TV show, “the Munsters.”

The walking tour will be a leisurely one-mile stroll

along some of Willow Glen’s original streets, with many pauses for stories and anecdotes. We will do a portion of “Loop 2” from the book, “Touring Historic Willow Glen / Ten Walking Loops” (available for purchase at Hicklebee’s bookstore on Lincoln Ave.)

The dinner is a pot-luck: bring a dish of something that you yourself would like to eat, and bring enough to share or trade with others. We will provide plates, cutlery, and some drinks. (You’re welcome to bring a favorite drink if you’d like!) The dinner will be outdoors, so you might want to bring a sweater or windbreak as well.

I’m inviting my neighbors to join us:

- * to apologize for the parking on the street;
- * to explain in advance why I’m leading a group of people down the street and pointing at their houses;
- * and to recruit new members and get them interested in historic preservation.

IN THIS ISSUE

VPA September Event.....	1
President’s Column.....	2
Have you Heard the Latest?	2
Vintage Cocktail Corner.....	3
Antique Autos	3
Historical Events Calendar.....	4

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

We had a very nice turnout for David Oxley's presentation on old house framing and electrical issues. Lots of great questions and comments. We also welcomed a few new members! Krista was a wonderful host and her house is always a pleasure to visit. She has written a new book titled *Schiele Subdivision and Alameda Park, History and Architecture and Preservation in a San Jose Neighborhood*. We are working to set a date for her to talk about the book to VPA. More on that very soon.

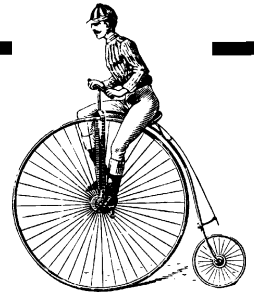
One note, in my last article I mixed up the date of David & Angela's house tour. It will be in October and not September. For September Larry Ames will be taking us on a history walk in his neighborhood in Willow Glen with a potluck to follow.

The Board is still working on ideas for a fundraiser next year. As many of you know, a multiple house tour, (as we have done in the past), is a ton of work and we may not have the resources to put on such an event. So, we are looking at a one-night event. We discussed doing another Edgar Allen Poe evening, but we will need to decide if repeating an event will be successful. Another issue will be a venue which has easy parking. We considered an outdoor event, but it will be too difficult to control the door as this will be a ticketed event. I am going to work with the Board and see if we can come up with a great event and solve the issues of producing such an event. As always, your ideas and input are very welcome.

And speaking of books, I am nearing the end of another book written by a VPA member, Mike Tierney. The book is called, *Mr. Darwin's Dragon*. It has a Steampunk motif and is the third in a series of stories about the exploits of Professor Nicodemus Boffin and the Airship Flamel. I have greatly enjoyed Mike's last two books and this one certainly does not disappoint. Professor Boffin has taken a mission from scientist Charles Darwin on his newly launched Airship, Flamel, to see if dragons still exist. The mission takes a turn when Flamel discovers an illicit gold mine of a Chinese Warlord. You can find more information on his books at www.airshipflamel.com

Looking forward to seeing you all September 17 at Larry's house, corner of Willow & Glen!

**Have You
Heard
the Latest?**



Larry Ames' Mediterranean Bungalow Home.

*Contributing to this Issue:
Larry Ames, & Marcus Salomon*

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

SEPTEMBER 25



ANTIQUE AUTOS AT HISTORY PARK

by Angela Elsey

Block off your day on Sept 17th, for two fun local events for lovers of all things vintage: Antique Autos at History Park from 11-4, followed by the VPA tour of Willow Glen and potluck.

Last year was my first time at the Antique Autos event and it was delightful! I'd been asked to organize a performance of dances representing the time period of the autos, the 1920s to 1940s. We presented the Castlewalk, Miss Fisher's Charleston, a tango and a swing number, ending with an invitation to everyone at the event to join in. We thoroughly enjoyed dusting off the dance shoes, dressing up, rehearsing and performing after a year and a half of no dancing! After the show, we enjoyed seeing all the beautiful old autos (including an early electric car!) shopping at the vintage sale, picnicking in the park, listening to music and songs of the Art Deco period, and of course touring some of the vintage homes and businesses in the Park. (Longtime VPAers will remember restoring and furnishing one of those homes, and enjoying the annual ice cream social in the Park.) Speaking of dairy treats, the ice cream parlor is open during the event!

Should you attend, please come to the plaza at the center of the village from 11:15-11:55 to see the San Francisco Bay Area Vintage dancers second annual performance! Hope to see you there!



Vintage Cocktail Corner
by Sara Bruce

Gum (*Gomme*) Syrup and a Vintage Gin Cocktail

Bartenders today typically use simple syrup, a mixture of sugar dissolved in water, to sweeten drinks. In times past, however, gum syrup, often called by the French name, *gomme*, was popular. This syrup has gum Arabic added and gives drinks a smooth, silky texture. Gum syrup is not widely used today, but it is worth trying. It is available bottled but is also easy to make.

Interestingly, some vintage cocktail books include recipes for gum syrup that do not add the gum Arabic, so it is just regular simple syrup. Did some bartenders not know the difference, or did they just not want to bother with a more complicated recipe?

Here is a recipe for gum syrup. You can buy gum Arabic online or in some middle-eastern markets. Try your gum syrup in the tasty gin cocktail recipe that follows (or use simple syrup).

Gum Syrup Recipe

3/4 cup water, divided

1 ounce (about 1/4 cup) powdered, food-grade gum Arabic

1 cup sugar

Bring 1/4 cup water to a near-boil. Mix with the gum Arabic in a small dish. Allow the mixture to stand for several hours until the gum Arabic has soaked up all of the water. Stir it well; it should be the consistency of thick glue.

In a saucepan, combine the sugar with 1/2 cup water. Heat and stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. Turn down the heat and stir in the gum mixture. Simmer for about 5 minutes, stirring constantly, (do not boil) until you have a thick, smooth syrup. Skim off any foam and strain out any lumps. Store in the fridge in a jar or bottle.

Gin Cocktail (From *The Modern Bartender's Guide*, 1884)

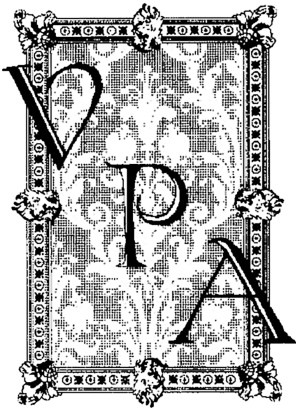
2 or 3 dashes gum syrup

2 dashes Angostura bitters

2 ounces gin

1 or 2 dashes Curaçao or absinthe

Shake or stir with ice and strain into a cocktail glass. Squeeze a piece of lemon peel on top, and serve. Cheers!



VICTORIAN
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
of Santa Clara Valley

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

UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

- Sept. 17 VPA September Event, see p. 1 for details.
- Sept. 17 Antique Autos at History Park
- Oct. 18 VPA October Event

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

On Facebook, search "VPA".

For newsletter information, email:
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 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
Ron Hagen	

Committee Contacts

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

