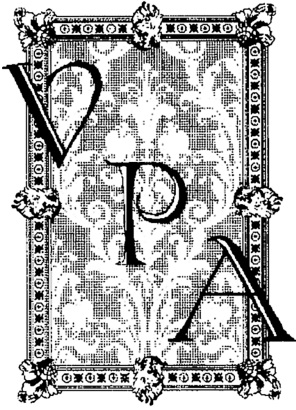


VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY



THE  
OLD HOME FOLKS

VOL. 49 ... MAY 2023 ... No. 5



TOUR OF ROBERTO ADOBE AND SUÑOL  
House

by Sara Bruce

770 Lincoln Avenue, San José, California.  
Saturday, May 20, 1:00pm

This month we will tour one of the oldest homes in San Jose. Be aware that their parking lot can fit about eight cars and there may be others present as they are open to the public. Parking along Lincoln can be tight, but if you don't mind walking a bit, try Paula St. on the other side of Lincoln. There is also a CEFCU just on the other side of 280 with a large parking lot shared by two churches. I doubt anybody would object to us parking there on a Saturday.

Here is a brief history of the property edited from the California Pioneer's website:

The Roberto Adobe was built by Native American Roberto Balermino in about 1836. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1847, Antonio Suñol built the brick Suñol House adjoining the adobe. Suñol owned San José's first store and held many prominent positions in the city. In 1853, a Dalmation sea captain named Stefano Splivalo purchased the Suñol house. He added the second story, encased the brick walls in wood siding, and added the three eastern rooms. This treasure was nearly lost when I-280 was constructed but was saved due to the work of local preservationists.

We will dive into more of the history of this property with docents from The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County who now own the site and operate it as a museum.

After the tour let's all travel a few blocks on Lincoln for drinks and snacks. We can go south to **Jakes** for pizza, burgers, beer etc. or north to **Hapa's Brewing** for house-made craft beer and whatever food truck they may have. Chromatic Coffee is in the same complex if that's the brew for you. We can decide which after the tour.



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

What's in a name? To quote the Bard, (no not that one), "A chrysanthemum by any other name // would be easier to spell".

Have you ever found yourself in a conversation with someone who is expressing interest in our club and considering joining but then you mention the name, "Victorian Preservation Association", and their first response is, "I don't own a Victorian, I guess I cannot join". I have had this conversation many times and of course I follow by saying that it is a club for anyone who likes and appreciates old houses. But many times, by then it is too late and somehow it doesn't connect even though a good many of our members do not own Victorians, but we all have a love for things Vintage.

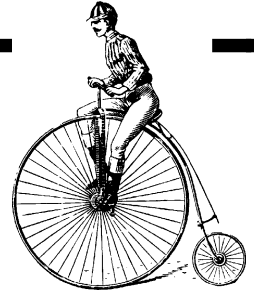
This has come up at our Board meetings for a few years but lately we have decided to try to make a slight change because we feel that we are losing a chance at new members. Understand that we are not formally changing our name, we will remain Victorian Preservation Association, but the Board feels that by introducing our club as the Vintage Home Preservation Association it will attract more interested people. This is simply an approach to describe more accurately what we are in the hope of promoting our club to a larger audience and helping build membership. As I said, we are still VPA, and you can continue to make your membership checks the same. Speaking of money; we need more. "Why not just print some? You can't do that!" "Well then, let's print something you can trade for money."

Turns out our Treasurer, Larry, has for years been silk-screening unique and collectable Christmas cards, (who knew?), and he has offered to help us do a custom run as a VPA fundraiser. More details to come in the coming months. The Board is working on other fundraising plans as well, and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

We are also looking into doing another garage sale in the near future. If you have any items that you may want to donate, please contact me at [marcussc21@gmail.com](mailto:marcussc21@gmail.com) or 408-930-9133.

Lastly, I want to thank Kay and Krista for a fantastic presentation of their new book, "Schiele Subdivision and Alameda Park: History, Architecture, and Preservation in a San Jose Neighborhood". We had a very good turnout and I heard from so many how wonderful it was. Thank you, Krista and Kay!!!

**Have You  
Heard  
the Latest?**



### PAC-SJ Warehouse Blowout Rummage Sale

Friday, June 2 to Saturday, June 3 at 260 S. 13th St.

Many yards full of stuff cleared out from PAC-SJ's storage unit make this PAC-SJ's best and biggest sale of the year.

More info at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org)

### Climbing your Family Tree?

I've been researching my genealogy for many years, but the fastest progress I've made happened with the introduction of on-line databases. I'll be giving a presentation on how to use the internet to discover your roots at a future VPA meeting (currently scheduled for October.) Have you researched your family tree? If so, I'd love to have members talk about the interesting things you've found. I found a previous unknown cousin (somewhat scandalous). My Mid-western wife has found that on branch of her family is descended from a Portuguese Sephardic Jewish rabbi. The family migrated from Portugal to Brazil to Holland to England to Michigan. Mysteries abound!

*Contributing to this Issue: Mike Tierney &  
Marcus Salomon*

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**

**MAY 21**

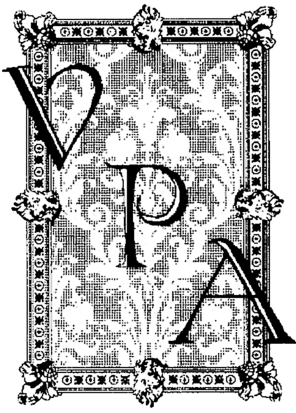
## **WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE CENTENNIAL SPEAKER SERIES**

2023 is the centennial of the Winchester House becoming an attraction and changing its name to the Winchester Mystery House. In celebration of this occasion, the House is holding a Centennial Speaker Series.

The next lecture will be on May 20th at 2:00 pm and will be by journalist and historian Robin Chapman, who will speak on "The Valley of Hearts Delight" to "Silicon Valley" Sarah Winchester's Life in the Ever-Changing Bay Area. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available on the Winchester Mystery House website ([www.winchestermysteryhouse.com](http://www.winchestermysteryhouse.com)). The lecture will take place in the Carriage House.



When you tour the Winchester House, you're told when you're in the original part of the house, although it's difficult to picture the entire original house from the inside. Courtesy of this photograph from History San Jose, now you can. Although starts as a fairly large and ornate house, it is nothing compared to the house once Sarah Winchester, an untrained yet enthusiastic architect had her way with it.



VICTORIAN  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION  
of Santa Clara Valley

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San Jose, CA 95106-0586

## UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 20 | VPA May Meeting, see p.1 for details.           |
| May 20 | Winchester House lecture. See p. 3 for details. |
| June 2 | PAC-SJ Rummage Sale. See p. 2 for details.      |

## 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 \$30 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 |
| Ron Hagen       |                  |

### Committee Contacts

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

