

# VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

## THE OLD HOME FOLKS

**VOL. 48 ... APRIL 2022 ... No. 3**

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### **ASHWORTH – REMILLARD HOUSE TOUR**

*by Marcus Salomon*

**Date:** Saturday, April 23  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Location:** 755 Story Road, San Jose, 95122

Our April program will be a tour of the Ashworth-Remillard House in San Jose.

There is an old White House in San Jose that is much more than just a house. It has been a home to many and has many a story to tell.

From its humble roots as a simple farmhouse to its current status as a recognized member of the National Register, the story of the Ashworth-Remillard House and its impact on the region is being told through the tireless work of community members, researchers and volunteers.

The San José farm was owned and by built by James Ashworth, a gold rush pioneer who settled here in 1854. The Ashworth home was built in 1864. It is now a registered City Landmark and on the list of National Historic Sites. The west-side of the Ashworth Property included the Coyote Creek, the banks of which provided particularly rich clay.

In 1861 Ashworth’s Son John married John Tully’s Sister, Rose Ann. John Tully (Tully Road) donated the land for the County Fairgrounds. Tully also had a eucalyptus grove. The remnants exist all

over the East Side, especially along the creek.

In 1854 three French Canadian Remillard brothers left their home near Montreal to find their fortunes in the California gold fields. By this time, unfortunately, most of the gold had been claimed, but clay, there was  
**(Cont'd on p. 3)**



**Ashworth – Remillard House**

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

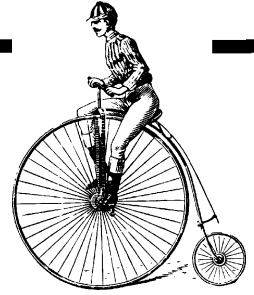
I would like to start this month's President's message to thank Sara Bruce for the great job she did organizing the Firehouse Museum Tour. And what a great event! It really did my heart good to see so many in attendance. Jim Carter, from the museum, was the perfect host and the exhibits were filled with history as well as some fun stories. But I return back to what it meant to see so many of you there and to hear the round of applause you gave yourselves at our first in person event in so long. Yes, I believe we are back!

Our next two programs will be happening on Saturdays. The first on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ashworth – Remillard House. This house is filled with history of two families who owned the property. When Hullene and I toured the property with Keith & Pam a few years ago we were fascinated with the stories and connections to some well-known historic figures in California and beyond. This will be one not to miss. The May program we are planning is the return of the Antique Crawl of the shops on San Carlos. We are switching this to a Saturday because of scheduling from the shop owners. Craig, from Antiques Colony will start us off with a short presentation and then it is off to shop! In the past we have had wine and snacks but since it will be starting at 10:00 AM before the shops open at 11, we may be thinking Mimosas. More to come.

Lastly, I want to give you some bad news about another antique store that lost its lease and will be closing. It is A.J.'s Attic in Castro Valley. If you haven't been there you should try to make the trip. Especially if you are in want of some old casino games from the 40s & 50s. I'm talking slot machines and a fantastic roulette table. There are lots of old photographs and games of all sorts. Arnie, the store owner, is really helpful and since they are closing there are some bargains. You can take a look online at [www.ajsantiques.com](http://www.ajsantiques.com) and [www.ajslots.com](http://www.ajslots.com).

I look forward to seeing you at the Ashworth – Remillard House on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>!

**Have You  
Heard  
the Latest?**



### History San Jose Warehouse Auction

History San Jose will be holding an auction of some of their larger deaccessioned artifacts, such as vehicles, industrial equipment, and furniture. The auction will take place on Saturday, April 20. Preview will begin at 8:30 am. The auction will start at 1:30 am, at 566 Cinnabar St., San Jose.

### No predictions here!

Back in April 2021, I wrote about the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. I won't make any predictions this April, but let's hope that we're on the downhill side of this roller coaster. After three vaccine shots (and counting!), we just may be getting back to "normal". It was definitely good to see everyone at the Fire Museum in real life instead of via Zoom.

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

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**

**APRIL 20**



## Vintage Cocktail Corner

by Sara Bruce

### The Margarita

The Margarita probably has as many origin stories as it has variations. Look up *Margarita* on Wikipedia for an interesting read about many of them. All that can really be agreed on is that the drink is similar to a Brandy Daisy, with Tequila substituted for Brandy, and Margarita is Spanish for Daisy. In 1945 Jose Cuervo Tequila ran an ad campaign with the slogan, "Margarita: It's more than a girl's name," which indicates that the drink had already gained popularity.

A traditional Margarita is a simple drink, but today all sorts of fruit juices and other flavors may be added. The popular frozen Margarita is another relatively recent variation.

Below is a basic recipe for a traditional Margarita. It's a refreshing drink for a summer evening or to dress up your *Taco Tuesday*:

If desired, moisten the rim of the glass with lime juice and dip in coarse salt.

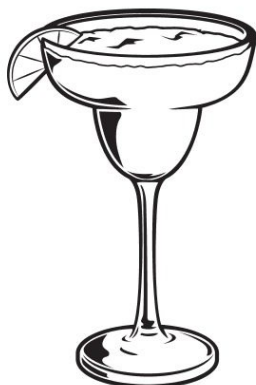
2 oz Tequila (100% Agave)

1 oz Triple Sec (or other orange liqueur)

$\frac{3}{4}$  oz Freshly Squeezed Lime Juice

Add all ingredients into a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass, or serve on-the-rocks. Garnish with a lime slice.

¡Salud!



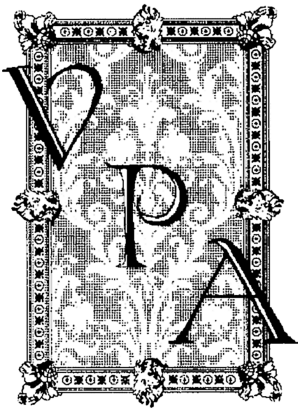
## ASHWORTH – REMILLARD HOUSE TOUR (CONT'D)

a-plenty. So, Pierre (Peter), Hiliare, and Edward bought into a small brick-making firm near Lake Merritt in Oakland. Their firm was named Remillard and Brothers, and they opened an office and yard at Clay and 2nd streets, Oakland, and a brick plant in nearby Brooklyn.

The Remillard families were successful owners of brick manufacturing plants in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. It was said they built the city of San Francisco twice. Once: before the great earthquake and fire of 1906. And then: again, after the earthquake. One building alone, the Palace Hotel, required 1.5 million bricks to complete. In the fall of 1891, Remillard purchased the Ashworth farm of 160 acres. The price was \$54,000.

This will be one you won't want to miss. The history and the connection to well-known families of the era is remarkable.





VICTORIAN  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION  
of Santa Clara Valley

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## UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

April 23 VPA April 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