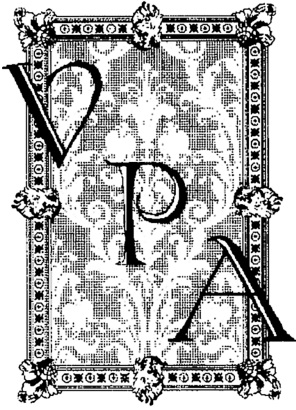


**VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY**



**THE
OLD HOME FOLKS**

VOL. 49 ... FEBRUARY 2023 ... No. 2

HARDWOOD FLOOR REPAIR AND REFINISHING

by Debbie Anderson & Hullene Salomon

Date: Monday, February 27
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Home of Pete & Debbie Anderson
265 N 13TH Street
San Jose, CA 95112

This month's program will be an interesting and informative presentation on hardwood floor repair and refinishing by our long time VPA member and floor expert Pete Anderson. Pete and Debbie are opening their lovely craftsman style home for this program and are requesting everyone remove their shoes upon entering.

Pete got started in the wood floor business when he moved to the bay area from Corvallis, Oregon. Debbie's mom, Gladys, was working for the Employment Development Department and found Pete a job working for Nick Young's paint stripping business. After a while, Nick did not have enough work to keep Pete busy so he referred him to Phillip's Floors. Pete was hired and started at \$5 an hour. Within 2 years, his wages had increased to \$20 an hour.

Later, Debbie's mom spotted an ad in the classified section of the Palo Alto Times for a hardwood business for sale. Pete ended up purchasing the business from the 89-year old owner for \$7600 and changed the name from John's One-Stop Service to Pete's Floors. The business included a drum sander,

edger, miter saw, trim saw, two vacuum cleaners and a 1962 Dodge van. Calls from John's customers were forwarded to the new business for 2 weeks and Pete was able to get many jobs in the Palo Alto area. Debbie helped by answering the phone, scheduling estimates and jobs, and assisting with all the paperwork.

Some of the special jobs Pete had the opportunity to work on over the years includes the Gamble House in Pasadena, the Thorsen House and the Hillside Club in Berkeley, and the Winchester Mystery House and San Jose Woman's Club in San Jose.

So come out for the chance to see their beautiful home, a wonderful presentation, and time spent with friends. Of course, as always there will be wine, water and snacks. See you there!

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

Thank you to all who attended the annual business meeting and thanks again to the Firehouse Museum. It's always a good time for all to see and hear about these wonderful machines of history.

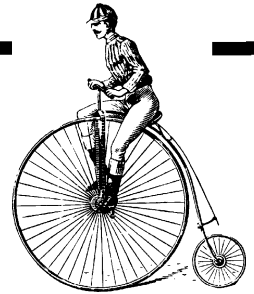
As we start into the new year I would like to make a request to our members. The Board works very hard to come up with interesting topics and presenters for our monthly programs and to coordinate all that goes into each one. Over the years we have had the pleasure of learning about restoration of our vintage homes as well as experiencing some wonderful historic buildings and homes. However, I have noticed that we seem to frequent a few of the members houses on a regular basis and I am sure that we will be returning to those houses in the future. But I would like to ask membership if any of you would consider hosting one of our future programs? The Board handles all the preparation and coordination for our quest speakers all you need to do is host.

Some of you may feel that your house is not finished with restoration or that you still have projects to tackle. Let me assure you that most of us have gone through all the phases of restoration and in fact it can make the program more interesting. Or, if you feel that your home is too small, then perhaps you may consider a backyard meeting.

It is always a special program when we get to visit someplace new and I sincerely hope that you will consider letting some of our members experience your home. And with that, I want to thank Pete and Debbie Anderson for opening up their home to VPA for the February Program.

*Contributing to this Issue: Debbie Anderson
Hullene Salomon, Sara Bruce, Matt Knowles,
& Marcus Salomon*

**Have You
Heard
the Latest?**



How to get your Newsletter electronically

Just ask.

Now that the Post Office has increased the cost of mailing a piece of First Class mail to 63 cents, postage is becoming a larger cost for the VPA. If you'd like to receive your monthly newsletter electronically, please let me know. You can email me at MikeT19278@yahoo.com.

Advantages? You'll be reading your newsletter while your fellow members are still waiting for the mailman to deliver theirs. Also, photos in full color!

I know there are some members who wish to continue getting paper newsletters, and that will still be the default option. However, I ask you to consider switching to an electronic newsletter to help lower our printing and postage costs.

Thanks!

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

FEBRUARY 28

HISTORY OF THE VPA WEBSITE

by Matt Knowles

Back in 1995 while working for a company called Domain Technologies, I started hearing about this new thing called the World Wide Web. I remember back then it was hard to get started because you had to download the software as it wasn't loaded as part of the OS as it is now. But how do you download it from the Internet when you don't have the software? Kind of a catch-22.



Members of the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara Valley, a non-profit 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' homes, but being an owner of one of these homes is not required for membership.

Here you'll find info about the Victorian Preservation Association and our members, local and national resources for restoring old houses, an index to historic house museums, and the ever popular links to other Victorian and old house sites on the World Wide Web. This is all pretty high tech for a bunch of people living in the past, but then you probably know our valley by its other name, Silicon Valley.

Make this page look better and support our local economy by using Netscape.



Victorian Preservation Association
P.O. Box 588
San Jose, CA 95106-0586
Email: vpa@vpa.com

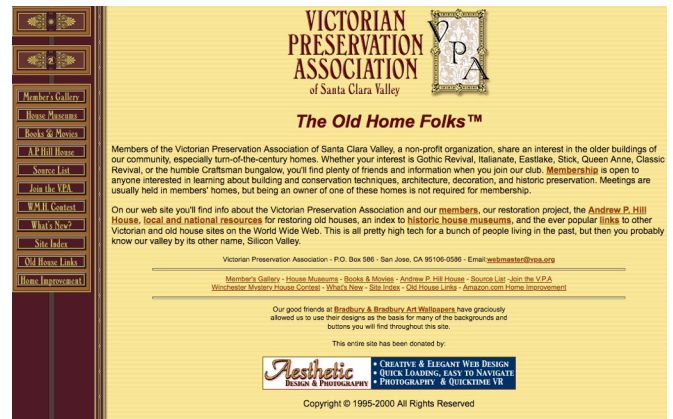
The server for this page has kindly been donated by [Domain Technologies](http://DomainTechnologies.com).

I eventually figured it out, using my 5400 baud dial up modem I made a connection to a bulletin board and downloaded the software.

Once I got on the World Wide Web (or the Internet as we call it today) I found there was a ton of free information available, on almost any topic you were interested. I decided to see what I could do to add back to this community and the VPA website was born.

I started compiling a list of all the historic house museums open in the U.S., mainly using the AAA Tour Books as my source. Everything was written in HTML, coding an individual page for each of the fifty states plus Washington D.C.

Eventually, as more and more museums went online, links and photos were added. The vpa.org site went through a number of redesigns, first in 1997 as my HTML coding skills and tools improved, then in 2000 I designed a database to start entering the info in, to make it easier to maintain, and it allowed users to submit new entries as well.

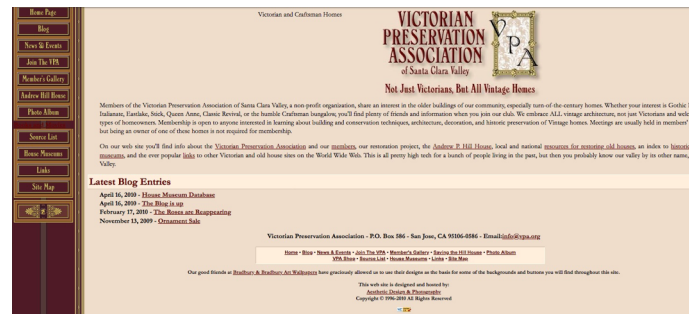


2006 saw a new color scheme and design, borrowing elements from the Bradbury & Bradbury catalog. In 2010 the site was moved into WordPress, to make the editing easier, as well as to make the design more flexible. People were starting to use their phones to connect to the Internet, and that opened up a whole new set of problems.

In 2015, I once again redesigned the site, and when I found time, I continued the conversion from HTML directory pages to database driven pages.

I was just finishing up that process in late 2022 when the WordPress theme I was using was no longer being supported. I started on yet another redesign, but then found that so many of the URLs for the museums had changed that a complete review of the site was warranted.

I spent most of my free time in November and December going through the 1200 entries I had accumulated, checking each one to make sure the link still worked, and to find a good photo of the museum.



All this data was then ported into a new database structure so that I could retire the custom PHP code I had written for the site. I'm an old dog, and I'm getting tired of learning new tricks, so I found an application I could use rather than rewriting everything myself. **continued on p. 4.**

HISTORY OF VPA.ORG

continued.

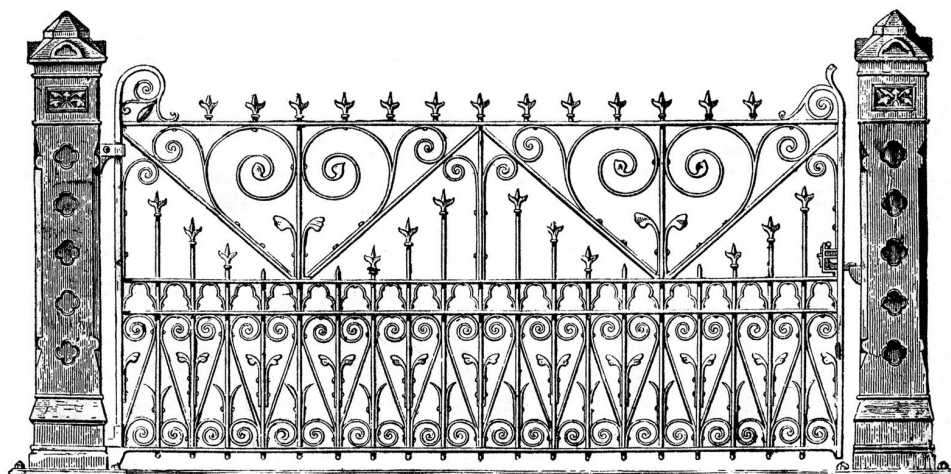
I just made my goal of completing everything and launched the new site New Year's Eve, just before we lost power while staying with friends in Salinas.

It's hard to believe that by some standards, our website is now an antique itself, having been around for over 25 years. In that time we've gone from IBM PC's with an 800x600 monitor, to iPhones, iPads, and desktop computers with multiple monitors, with resolutions up to 8 times higher than what was available in 1996.



These screenshots are all from archive.org, a website that has been archiving the Internet from the beginning. It is an invaluable resource for looking back at our recent history.

As a group that loves living in the past, it's nice to know that our digital history is being preserved just as our historic houses are.



PAC***SJ** ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES SALE

Laura Ashley Dishes, Ephemera, Art,
Small Furniture, Local History Books, *and More!*

❖ PAC***SJ** T-Shirts, Neon-Sign Pins ❖
& Guide Books

MARCH 17 & 18

FRIDAY, 9AM TO 6PM
SATURDAY, 9AM TO 1PM

1218 WILLOW STREET – SAN JOSE
AT THE CORNER OF WILLOW ST & GLENN AVE



All proceeds support PAC***SJ** and its local historical preservation efforts to educate, advocate and preserve San Jose's history.
Contact Patt at donations@preservation.org to volunteer or donate.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Once again it's time to remind everyone that it is time to renew your VPA membership. For 2023, VPA dues are \$30 per household. To see if you owe dues for 2023 (some people pay ahead...), look at your newsletter address label. If it says 2023 in the upper right corner, you owe dues for 2023.

Please fill out the renewal form below and return it 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). or give it to any board member at a meeting.

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 Yahoo Group? (Y/N)

Special Interests, Expertise, Description of House

Suggestions/ideas for monthly meeting topics

Recommendations for VPA Source Lst:

VPA Address:

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



Vintage Cocktail Corner by Sara Bruce

The *Vieux Carré* Cocktail

In honor of Mardi Gras, here is a classic New Orleans cocktail. (If you want another, see last March's issue of the VPA Newsletter for The Sazerac, official cocktail of New Orleans.)

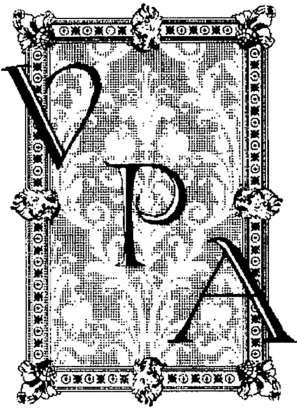
The *Vieux Carré* (vyur kaa ray) is a simple stirred cocktail but it has more ingredients than most. It includes the French herbal liqueur *Bénédictine* and New Orleans' own Peychaud's Bitters. There is no substitute for either of these ingredients—leaving them out creates a variation on the Manhattan, but still tasty.

The drink was created in the early 1930s by Walter Bergeron, head bartender at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans. He created it to do honor to the city's famed *Vieux Carré* (AKA French Quarter). It remains a signature cocktail of that hotel's famous Carousel Bar.

3/4 ounce rye whiskey
3/4 ounce cognac
3/4 ounce sweet vermouth
1 to 2 dashes Angostura Bitters
1 to 2 dashes Peychaud's Bitters
1 teaspoon Bénédictine liqueur
Lemon twist

Stir all ingredients with ice and strain into a cocktail glass or serv on-the-rocks. Garnish with a lemon twist.

Cheers!

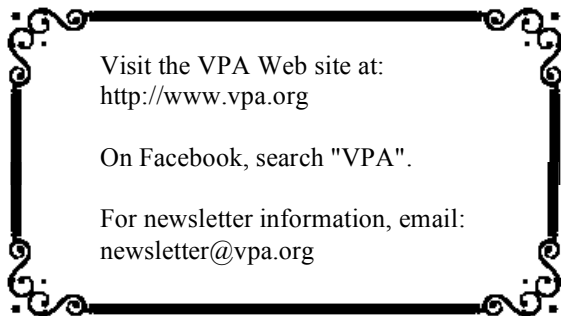


VICTORIAN
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
of Santa Clara Valley

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

UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

Feb. 27 VPA February Meeting. see p. 1 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 \$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