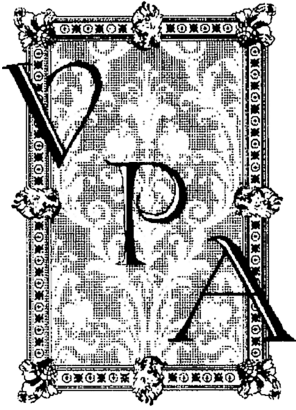


VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY



THE  
OLD HOME FOLKS

VOL. 49 ... NOVEMBER 2023 ... No. 10



VPA HOLIDAY PARTY

*by Hullene Salomon*

**DATE:** Sunday, December 10  
**TIME:** 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** 1218 Willow Street, San Jose  
(corner of Willow & Glenn)

It's that time of year to gather and celebrate the holiday season with friends. This year's party is being hosted by Larry Ames.

Larry lives in a lovely 1925 Mediterranean Bungalow. Larry and his late wife, Liv, bought their home in 1979, just two weeks after arriving in San Jose. The house, like the neighborhood (and the owner), has lots of "character": it has two front doors, and five backdoors, every room has at least two doors including the bathroom, and the backyard has two gates. It has arched windows and hardwood floors. Also, the old TV show, "The Munsters", is the inspiration for the basement door. You will have a chance to admire all the restorations that Larry has done over the years while locating and counting all the doors at the party!

The party is for VPA members only and you may renew your membership at the party. We welcome new members, so invite your friends who would like to join that evening. Membership dues remain a bargain at \$30 per family per year. We will also be collecting an additional \$5.00 per person to help offset expenses for the main course and beverages.

VPA will provide the main course (turkey and ham), as well as wine, water, and soft drinks. In addition,

please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to complement the meal. Side dishes need to be "ready to serve", and please include a serving utensil if needed.

We will once again enjoy the annual ornament exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped ornament in the \$10 range to put under the tree.

Larry suggests you may want to come early or stay late to take in all the lovely Christmas lights on his and surrounding streets. Nothing quite like colorful Christmas lights to brighten our Christmas spirit!

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for, and we hope you will join us for a warm and festive evening with good friends.

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who participated and attended our monthly programs this year. We had some very interesting topics and I find that it is a pure delight to be with all of you and share our love for all things Vintage, especially our houses.

I want to send out a special thanks to Larry Ames who designed and created his wonderful Christmas Cards for sale as a fundraiser for VPA. He has raised over \$500, and it is still growing! If you haven't purchased any yet he may have some left for sale at the Christmas party. And you can always contact me if you would like to purchase before.

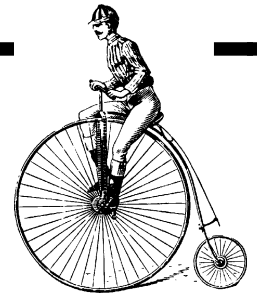
Larry is also hosting our annual Christmas Party this year at his lovely home at the corner of Willow and Glenn in Willow Glen. He is hoping that you will take a drive around his neighborhood either before or after the party to see the fantastic house decorations nearby. Every year people in the neighborhood put up lights with themes of the holidays and it is one you won't want to miss.

The party is on December 10 at 5:00 and it is the time to renew your membership with VPA. Hullene will be taking your annual payment of \$30 at the door and we are asking for \$5 per person to help with the party expenses. This is also a time to let your friends who may be interested in joining our club to attend and sign up for 2024 with us. We are always looking for new members interested in Vintage Homes.

Lastly, we will be doing our ornament exchange at the party. Don't miss your chance to steal from your friends! The more who participate, the more fun it is. Come with ornament in hand and enjoy. See you at the Party!!!

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

**Have You  
Heard  
the Latest?**



1218 Willow, the location of the VPA Holiday Party this year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:  
JANUARY 2**



## Vintage Cocktail Corner

By Sara Bruce

### Wassail!

*Wassail! Wassail! All over the town,  
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown;  
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree;  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink unto thee.*

The lines above are from one of the many wassailing songs from across England. Wassail isn't really a cocktail, but it is among the first popular mixed drinks. So as yuletide approaches, enjoy this winter warmer.

The word probably comes from Old Norse *ves heill*, meaning "good health" or "good fortune." The phrase was used as a toast, but at some point, in the early Middle Ages, it also became the name of the drink.

Early wassail was mead with roasted apples dropped in. As other ingredients became more available, the recipes evolved. Wine, ale, cider (apple or pear), honey, sugar, spices, exotic citrus fruits and sometimes brandy were used as available. Beaten eggs might be mixed in as well. Wassail was traditionally served hot, in a communal bowl, with pieces of toast floated on top. Today most people leave out the toast, but the word lives on as we raise our glasses.

In the cider-producing regions of England, the wassailing tradition involved a Twelfth Night procession to the orchards, singing and drinking to the health of the trees to ensure a good harvest the following season, while usually making a ruckus to drive away evil spirits. In some areas people would form processions from house to house to offer their blessings and songs and receive gifts and wassail.

Don't overthink wassail. It's hard to mess it up. Start with your beverage(s) of choice, add spices (cinnamon, cloves, ginger, allspice), maybe some sliced oranges or apples, and warm slowly over the stove. Add a touch of brandy for a bit of a kick. Sweeten to taste. Experiment with small amounts to find your perfect recipe or just make something as simple as spiced cider. (If you want a real recipe, the Internet has dozens.)

Wassail!

## CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER UPDATE

by Larry Ames

Seven dozen cards were available, and all have been sold!

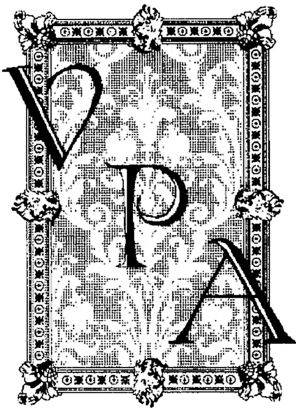
Thanks to Marcus, Mike, Sara, and David of the VPA, plus Leif, Pat, and Becky, for help in printing, and thanks to the purchasers for supporting our fundraiser!

(When you come to the Christmas Party, pause for a moment and look from the Willow St. porch, and you'll see the inspiration for the card's design.)

See you on the 10th!

~Larry Ames





VICTORIAN  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION  
of Santa Clara Valley

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## UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

- Dec. 10            VPA Holiday Party. See p. 1 for details.  
January 17        VPA Annual Business Meeting.

## 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

