

The Palo Alto Historical Association presents

LSD IN PALO ALTO: the world would never be the same

Sunday, November 4, 2:00-4:00

Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

LSD, the illegal, controversial mind-expanding drug is often sneered at as being responsible for corrupting our youth during the turbulent sixties. Not so, says Rich Green, Vice President of PAHA and President of the Palo Alto Museum. Palo Alto was the global hotbed of LSD clinical research from the late '50s through the early '70s and was largely responsible for inspiring technology and cultural giants to go further than anyone had gone before.

From humble psychological research at Stanford University and several community institutions, LSD in Palo Alto caused a creative blast that changed the world. SRI, Doug Engelbart, Stanford Artificial

Intelligence Laboratory, Kepler's Bookstore, The Whole Earth Catalog, International Foundation for Advanced Study, Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters, Homebrew Computer Club, Xerox PARC, the PC, Apple... it all adds up to a shocking and fascinating history that could only have happened in Palo Alto!

Please join Rich Green and special guests for a wild magic carpet ride to the heights of human creativity and inspiration that happened during the most startling decade of our lives. "What a long, strange trip it's been!"

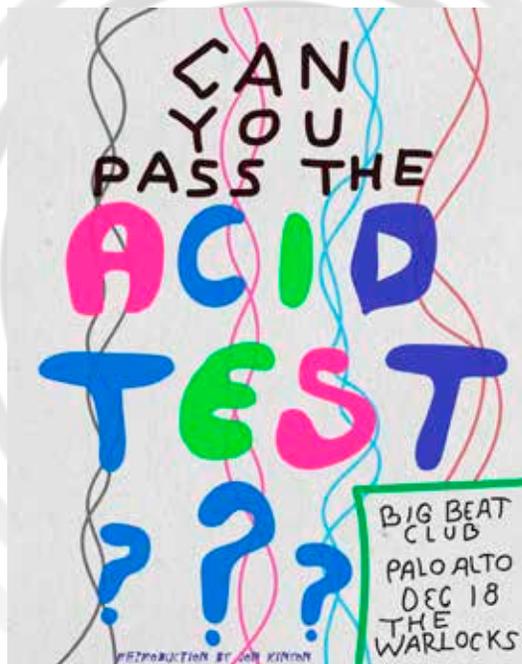


Image courtesy of Jon Kinyon



Rich Green
Vice President, PAHA
President, Palo Alto Museum

Rich Green has been an active businessman in Palo Alto since 1991, designing and installing integrated consumer electronics systems for clients throughout Silicon Valley. He travels the world as an instructor, consultant, and public speaker in the fields of Future Technologies and Design. With a passion for history and community, Rich promotes a humane, anthropological perspective on the future of consumer technologies.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Ralph Britton

**PALO ALTO
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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The Palo Alto Historical Association, a non-profit organization, was established in 1948 as successor to an earlier organization founded in 1913. Its main objectives are:

- Collect, organize, and preserve materials pertaining to the history and heritage of Palo Alto.
- Spread information about Palo Alto's history by means of programs, displays, and publications.
- Recognize and preserve historic sites and structures.

The Guy Miller Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association are stored at Cubberley Community Center, K-7, Phone (650) 329-2353.

Board meetings are held at 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Guy Miller Archives. Public programs are held at 2pm on the first Sunday of each month (October-December, February-May) at various locations in Palo Alto. Programs include speakers. The final program of the year is held in June and includes a dinner and a program. The public is welcome at all programs.

I Heard It Through The Grapevine...

In the mid-1950s I was an Electrical Engineering student at Stanford, also working a half-time job. In an effort to stay in shape with this heavy schedule, I would take a bag lunch to the men's pool, swim some laps and then bask in the sun on the bleachers while consuming my lunch. Several professors and graduate students often had lunch and conversation on the bleachers as well. Swim suits were not even allowed (except for diving board users) and quite remarkably, the visitor's deck of Hoover Tower had a clear view of the pool.

In those conversations, some of the professors related remarkable hallucinogenic experiments with a certain type of chemical. The use of the drug was conducted in a semi-scientific setting with non-users monitoring the behavior of those under the influence, often for several hours. It was understood that a monitor was essential for the safety of the participants. Those involved generally agreed on the experience's positive results. Clarity of vision and deep understanding of

life's issues were often mentioned with some even speaking of a sense of achieving a Zen-like enlightenment. Of course the chemical they spoke of was LSD.

Electrical Engineering professors and Engineers at the Stanford Research Institute (now called SRI International) made up a significant faction of the community conducting this specialized kind of research. Informal research using "consciousness-expanding" drugs was well established in academic circles at the time. For example, in 1950, Timothy Leary obtained his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at UC Berkeley and then went on to become an assistant professor of medical clinical psychology at UC San Francisco. Late in the 1950s, I became friends with a man who had been Leary's roommate for a time during the Berkeley period. He testified to both Leary's strangeness and brilliance. It is notable that LSD and psilocybin mushrooms did not become illegal in the US until the mid-1960s.



**FROM THE DESK OF
Steve Staiger
City Historian**

"Creator's of the Legacy". Keithley was an obvious choice when the list was compiled twenty-five years ago. Yet, today his name and the memory of his actions are nearly forgotten.

For its first fifty years, Palo Alto was run by a group of men, the members of the Board of Trustees, and later, the City Council. Women were included later. Working in sub-committees, they directed the development of the City and made the day-to-day decisions. After World War II, Palo Altans realized they needed a team of professional managers: they hired Jerome "Jerry" Keithley in 1950 as the City's first City Manager. The 34-year old administrator left his position as Stockton's City Manager to accept the position in

**PALO ALTO'S
FIRST CITY
MANAGER,
JERRY
KEITHLEY,** is the subject of this chapter in the series of brief biographies of Palo Alto's

Palo Alto at an annual salary of \$12,000. During his first decade in office, Palo Alto changed tremendously, and Jerry is credited with managing the growth and expansion of the city as it more than doubled in population. Palo Alto Mayor Walter Gaspar had stated, "We hired someone to tell us what to do." Keithley managed major annexations in south Palo Alto; the development of 8000 housing units; the development of the Stanford Industrial Park and the Stanford Shopping Center; and major hydroelectric contracts with the federal government.

In 1957, San Diego recruited Jerry Keithley to be their City Manager. San Diego was ten times the size of Palo Alto's 50,000 residents, and they offered him a salary of \$26,200, (Continued on page 3)



Jerry Keithley meeting with Cecil Riley (left) and George Morgan (right) at City Hall.



The Great War, Palo Alto, Armistice Day



by Peggy McKee

2018, as we know from PAHA's October 7th program, is a banner year for Palo Alto as we celebrate Paly High's centennial. On a larger scale, 2018 also marks the 100th anniversary of the end of The Great War, in which America participated since April 1917. Palo Alto sent its own "doughboys" off to make "the world safe for democracy," as President Wilson put it. PAHA President Ralph Britton remembers his father's stories about training for and serving in the American Expeditionary Force. Paly High alum Alan Nichols ('14) left Stanford to "join up" as an ambulance driver, and later flew in the Lafayette Flying Corps in 1917.



Camp Fremont encampment.

Courtesy of Jon Kinyon

Palo Alto's role in World War I is familiar to old timers, as are the inspiration and leadership of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover. The Hoovers spearheaded the Commission for Relief in Belgium (C.R.B.), which operated from 1914-1919. Mrs. Hoover organized C.R.B. activities that fed more than 10 million people daily and worked with groups dedicated to the relief of both soldiers and civilians. Camp Fremont, founded in 1916 to train National Guard units for the coming war, was located just up the road. The Hostess

House (now MacArthur Park) designed by Julia Morgan, was originally part of the Camp Fremont complex—as was the now defunct Oasis Bar and Grill—which comprised a thousand acres in Menlo Park. Soldiers from Camp Fremont frequented the Hostess House to meet "local ladies." Many of these soldiers were deployed in August 1918 to the Philippines and then to the Russian Far East where they became part of the Polar Bear Brigade that played a role in the Russian Civil War.

American clubwomen from suffragist groups, WCTU, YWCA, and a plethora of woman's clubs mobilized the war effort at home, including the promotion of Liberty Loans to fund the war or to encourage voluntary food conservation. Members of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto—like their sisters and mothers across the land—served as nurses, wrote letters to servicemen, knitted socks, and raised money through such events as the Belgian Markets in downtown Palo Alto. They also held teas and socials for servicemen in their homes and at their new clubhouse on Homer Avenue after its completion.



Palo Alto parade celebrating Armistice day, 1918.

When the Armistice came on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, soldiers from Camp Fremont marched in a parade down University Ave.

(Continued from page 2)

compared with \$20,000 in Palo Alto. He decided to stay in Palo Alto.

By the early 1960s, community support for their City Manager was weakening. Keithley's plans for developing the Baylands and promoting the idea of high rise buildings in the foothills were challenged by the "Residentialists" who questioned more development. While supporters viewed Keithley as "a real top guy – one of the best in the whole country"– others saw him as "a small-time Napoleon."

In 1965, Councilmember Philip Flint began demanding Keithley's ouster, claiming that Keithley was not responsive to the residents, but rather loyal to a "private club" of business leaders and members of the "establishment." Defenders took out a full-page ad in the Palo Alto Times. However, in December, Keithley announced his departure



Jerry Keithley (right) with Councilmembers Marshall and Porter on site of Foothills Park.

to be City Manager of Oakland, with a salary of \$28,000 (\$500 more than Palo Alto.) In 1972, he left Oakland to become City Manager of Glendale.

Keithley's actions continued to influence Palo Alto long after his departure, but his personality was gone, to be forgotten by most of the residents. Many years ago, I received a package from Palm Springs,

Keithley sent us the first golf ball from opening day at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course in 1956. In recent years I have tried unsuccessfully to find Jerry Keithley. Last year, he was inducted into the Newport Harbor High School Hall of Fame, in the southern California community where he grew up, but the news stories do not indicate that he was present, or even still alive, to receive this honor. A recent Google search does not reveal his whereabouts.

History Jaunts for the Winter

Don't miss "Agnes Martin/Navajo Blankets" at the **Pace Gallery**, 229 Hamilton Ave. through October 28. This major exhibition brings together a selection of large-scale paintings by Agnes Martin inspired by blankets created by Navajo women in the 19th century. The exhibition draws parallels between the exquisite design and craftsmanship of the blankets and "Martin's approach to painting, both of which prize the power of balance and inspire a transcendental experience." Free and open to the public, Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 7 pm. For more information, call (650) 561-4076 or visit www.pacegallery.com.

The season for the **PAST Heritage Walking Tours** is almost over. The last tour scheduled for this fall is on Saturday, November 3—a guided tour of the historic Woman's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. The Woman's Club is about to celebrate its 125th anniversary; the Club House itself is more than 100 years old! To join the free tour, meet Steve Emslie at 10:00 am on the steps of the Woman's Club. For more information visit www.pastheritage.org/tours.html.



Image courtesy of Woman's Club

The current exhibit at the **Palo Alto Art Center** offers an examination of "Care and Feeding: The Art of Parenthood." It explores the unique questions artists face, from both internal and external forces, when they become parents. The exhibit features works of art from more than a dozen local and international artists who depict the challenges and joys of parenthood. The exhibit runs through December 30, 2018. Located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, open Tuesday through Sunday, and admission is free. For more on hours and information about other exhibits, call (650) 329-2366 or visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/artcenter.

While the pleasant fall weather persists—and before the rains—consider a jaunt to "cathedrals of redwoods" on a day trip to Aptos. **The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park** hosts 30 miles of hiking (and some biking) trails. You can pick up a map appropriate to your skill and energy level at the ranger station. The park is located at 564 Aptos Creek Road, Aptos, with an \$8 per day use fee. The park's name honors Nisene Marks whose family bought the land and donated 9700 acres to the State of California, with the provision the land never be developed. What makes this park a special treasure is that it is evidence of the Marks' family's determination to support and showcase forest regeneration after more than half a century of clear-cut logging. For more information, call (831) 763-7063 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=666.

Coming Soon - 2019 PAHA Calendar!



Back by popular demand, the 2019 PAHA Calendar will be available for pick-up and purchase at the November 4th and December 2nd PAHA programs. This year's calendar features another series of historic Palo Alto images from the Archives. The calendar is free to members and \$15 for nonmembers. If you would like additional calendars, they are available for purchase at Bell's Books, Books, Inc., and the PAHA Archives. They make great gifts for friends and family, but act quickly; supply is limited!

Welcome New Member!

Tim Diebert

PAHA Winter Programs

December 2 - *Vignettes: Tales of Palo Alto* with Karen Holman

January 20 - *Robin Chapman's Historic Bay Area Visionaries*

The Heritage Program for November 2018 will feature PAHA's December 2005, 4th Annual **Swapping Stories** program.

The program includes stories about "The Vegetable Man", the A.M.E. Zion Church and memories of South Palo Alto. Speakers include Ellen Wyman, Don Douglas, and Cole and Doris Richmond. An added feature is a color movie of the 1941 opening celebration of the University Avenue underpass.

Weds. 8 pm, Thurs. 10 am
& Sat. 1 pm on Channel 30

DVDs available from
the Guy Miller Archives
Tues. 4-8 pm, Thurs. 1-5 pm



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PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Peggy McKee, Melissa Verber,
Debbie Hapgood-Toscaneli,
Luana Staiger, *Editorial*
Jon Kinyon, *Design*
Omega Printing, *Printing*

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