



DATE: April 25, 2022

AGENDA ITEM # 2

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Historical Commission
FROM: Nazaneen Healy, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Award

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2022 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012. The intent of the award is to recognize exemplary rehabilitation and preservation of historic properties, and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources. If the Historical Commission finds that none of the nominees meet the above criteria, the Commission is not obligated to grant the Preservation award.

DISCUSSION

Staff received two nominations for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for the Los Altos Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, nominated by Ann Hepenstal (Attachment A) and a nomination for Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer, nominated by Gary Hedden (Attachment B).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at a future City Council Meeting.

Attachments:

- A. Los Altos Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Nomination
- B. Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer, Nomination



ATTACHMENT A

City of Los Altos

2022 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for the 2022 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

Members of the Los Altos Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) researched the lives and history of early settlers in the Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View area. While history books usually focus on "famous people," this project documented the lives of people who were in this area before 1900. Some of the researchers chose to investigate the person who had owned the property where they now live, or a street or school named for an early resident. Others chose someone identified on maps or in other records, as long as the person was in the area and active before 1900.

As a "pandemic project," the researchers relied on materials accessible at home and online: maps, genealogy resources, internet articles, newspapers, books, and more. The project gave insight into the pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit that contributed to the commercial and civic evolution of the early San Francisco Bay Area. Thirty-five early settlers were profiled in one-page biographies written by 16 DAR member-authors. These settlers include such "Los Altos names" as Cyrus Philbrick Berry (965 Berry Ave), Silas Blake Emerson, David L. Farnsworth (439 Rinconada Ct), and Elias Fulton Springer (Springer School and Springer Rd). Copies of the book have been donated to Los Altos Library and the Family History Center.

If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Nominated by: Ann Hepenstal Date: April 15, 2022

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2022 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Nazaneen Healy at nhealy@losaltosca.gov. Materials may also be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 12:00 pm.**

At the April 25, 2022 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2022 Historic Preservation Award. The 2022 Historic Preservation Award winner will be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at a future meeting.

Nazaneen Healy

From: Ann H. <annhep@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Nazaneen Healy
Cc: Martha Wallace; Donna M. Santistevan
Subject: nomination for Los Altos Historic Preservation Award
Attachments: historic_preservation_award_nomination_form_2022 - settlers project.pdf

I'm pleased to nominate the Los Altos Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for the project ***Early Settlers of Old Los Altos/Mountain View***, which resulted in an "electronic book" (PDF). I've attached the completed nomination form, along with some supporting information/photos/articles.

Please see here to view the "electronic book:"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zVCdPHDyjtAip4U8eUYO4Akr2xnsX-eS/view?usp=sharing>

To increase the impact on the Los Altos community and public access to this information, the Chapter has donated printed copies (plus an electronic version on thumbdrive) to the Los Altos History Museum, the Family History Library at Los Altos Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Mountain View Historical Association (at the Mountain View Library), Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Santa Clara County Library District - Los Altos Branch. An electronic version has also been donated to the Family Search Library to be added to their online catalog (familysearch.org) and to the Daughters of the American Revolution library. The *Los Altos Town Crier* ran photos on its front page covering the event where the chapter presented the books to the recipients.

The California State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CSSDAR) awarded the Settlers Project a Certificate of Historic Achievement at the 2022 State Conference. In addition, the State Historian featured the project in her committee poster display, and in her report to the conference.

Project manager Martha Wallace received the "Special Project Award, Volunteer Information Specialist" at the CSSDAR 2022 State Conference, recognizing her innovative approach to using technology to run this project during the Covid-19 pandemic. She used Zoom coaching sessions, deployed electronic templates to the authors for their profile write-ups, taught about databases and resources available online and more.

Martha and I would be pleased to provide any additional information you may need, or to answer questions about the project.

thanks and regards,
Ann Hepenstal
Los Altos resident
cell 650-946-8298





California State Society

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

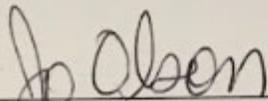
Special Project Award

Presented to

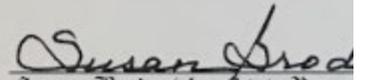
Martha Wallace, Los Altos

for

Dedication, Commitment and Outstanding Service in VHS


Jo Olson - State Chair, VHS

March 17, 2022


Susan Broderick - State Regent



CSSDAR State Historian
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Certificate of Historic Achievement

Presented to

Los Altos Chapter

For

Research and Documentation of Early Settlers to the Los Altos/Mountain View Area

Sherrie L. Stein

CSSDAR State Historian 2020-2022

March 17, 2022

Date





ATTACHMENT B

City of Los Altos

2022 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating Anne Roberts & Dick Liewer for the 2022 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

I encourage you to recognize two of the longest-
serving and most dedicated members of the
History Museum's Education Committee, Anne Roberts
and Dick Liewer. Teaching history is an important
component of the Museum's mission and Anne
and Dick have reached countless thousands
of elementary age students with their very
personal and engaging history lessons.
Building awareness and appreciation of our
local history is an important part of
historic preservation.

If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Nominated by: Gary Hedden Date: 21 April 2022

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2022 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Nazaneen Healy at nhealy@losaltosca.gov. Materials may also be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 12:00 pm.**

At the April 25, 2022 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2022 Historic Preservation Award. The 2022 Historic Preservation Award winner will be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at a future meeting.

2022 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

20 April 2022

Honored Historical Commissioners,

I look forward to the nominations that are presented to the Commission each Spring. It is when we hear about the people who have helped preserve and protect the story of Los Altos. This connection to the past is an important part of the charm of our city.

Some of the people you have recognized have played a critical role in saving our history. People like Don McDonald, Margaret Thompson, Marion and Bob Grimm, Nan Geschke, Jane Reed and others have been recognized for truly significant work. This year, I encourage you to recognize two of the longest-serving and most dedicated members of the History Museum's Education Committee, Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer. Teaching history is an important component of the Museum's mission and Anne and Dick have reached countless thousands of elementary age students with their very personal and engaging history lessons.

Anne Roberts retired from Almond Elementary School in 2007 and immediately joined the Education Committee, becoming Chair in 2009, a position she continues to hold. As Chair, Anne has been managing the Margaret Thompson essay contest in a joint effort with the Historical Commission. Working with the Education Committee, her work has involved picking a subject based on the current exhibit in the changing exhibits gallery at the Museum, writing the "prompt" describing the topic for the essay, reading and scoring the entries, and with the Historical Commission picking the winners and recognizing them at an Ice Cream Social in May.

Anne has dedicated herself to this for over 12 years and the genuine pleasure the winning students show is one of Anne's most satisfying rewards.

Dick Liewer has been leading school tours for longer than he can remember. The third-grade tours were already an established annual tradition when he joined the effort in the 90s. The tours then involved three stations, a visit with Annie Knapp Fitz and a look at her art, a walk downtown to look at historic buildings, and of course a visit to the Smith House. In 2001, after the History Museum's new home had been built, Bob Grimm told Dick, "There is more potential here." As a former teacher and administrator, Dick could easily reach out to the schools to find out what they needed, and the answer was fourth-grade tours. Dick asked Don McDonald, our esteemed town historian, for help, and they came up with a plan. The tours would have four stations, Early City Hall, Take Me to the Movies, People Movers and Cal Aggies.

Early City Hall is always fun for the kids. They play the role of city council members, city staff and the public to debate a dog license ordinance! In 1953, the city was only one year old and didn't have a lot of rules. There was a real debate between folks who wanted some rules and those who didn't. A dog named Beans was the cause of it all,

and the kids get to argue and debate and come up with a rule.

This year, with the help of the new Museum Educator, Georgianna Shea, the tours have been upgraded with some tweaks to the script and best of all, now the docents wear costumes. Dick Liewer wears a San Francisco Seals uniform when he talks about the early history of local baseball.

For Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer, teaching history to the students is more fun than work. Nevertheless, their dedication is worthy of your selection of them for the 2022 Historic Preservation Award.

Thank you,
Gary Hedden

2022 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

20 April 2022

Honored Historical Commissioners,

I support the nomination of Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer for the 2022 Historic Preservation Award.

Anne Roberts has been the chair of the LAHM Education Committee for over 12 years. As the chair, Anne has coordinated the Margaret Thompson essay contest each year. This is the 38th year of the contest which is named for Margaret Thompson who started it when she was on the Historical Commission. Anne has been in charge of the judging of the essays and coordinating with the City of Los Altos and the Historical Commissioners to recognize the essay contest winners. Anne also has been in charge of the 3rd grade field trip tours of the Museum and the Smith House during her time as chair. This year, Anne has spearheaded the revising of our scripts for each of the 3rd grade stations that are presented during our tours. These stations help preserve our Los Altos history and present it in an engaging manner to 3rd graders. The historic Smith House, Annie Knapp Fitz and her paintings, and the history of baseball in the Bay Area are being presented this year.

Dick Liewer has been a member of the Education Committee for well over 12 years. Dick is in charge of the 4th grade field trip tours. Dick has written the scripts for each of the four stations that are presented to the 4th graders. This year, Dick has spearheaded the revising of the 4th grade scripts. Training was presented for each of these stations so that docents could be familiar with the new engaging approaches to use with the students. Dick was involved with each of these training sessions. The 4th grade stations include: a City Council simulation of a meeting that took place about dog ordinances in Los Altos in 1953, a hands-on presentation about the importance of apricots and walnuts to Los Altos, a station called "Take Me to the Movies" and the history of baseball. Dick has been instrumental in preserving the history of Los Altos and presenting it in an engaging manner to 4th graders in Los Altos.

Kind regards,

Carole Flores
Member, Los Altos History Museum Education Committee

2022 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

20 April 2022

Honored Historical Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer for the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

Both Anne and Dick have been invaluable to the Los Altos History Museum for their work with third and fourth graders in supporting the tours offered each year. Both have backgrounds in education; Anne as a classroom teacher and Dick as an administrator. Anne has recruited a well informed dedicated committee of mostly retired educators who take their responsibility very seriously. Together the committee presents interesting ever-changing tours each year to the city's third and fourth graders. I can't recommend them both highly enough. Their zeal and enthusiasm has carried this program to new heights each and every year. Both Anne and Dick are worthy recipients of this prestigious award. Please consider them.

Sincerely,

Nan Geschke

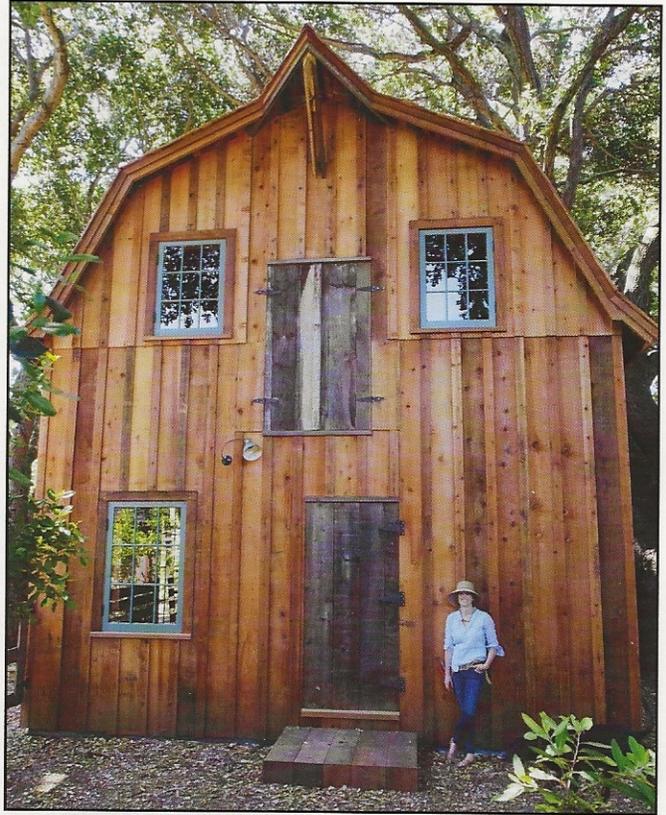
Long-time supporter of the Museum and the Education Committee

History in the News

Two steps forward and two steps back. The historic 1930s Ames/Landels Barn at 210 Alta Vista was completely renovated, a 3+ year project that wrapped up in April. Led by local architect Greg Evard, the renovation included careful preservation of much of the original wood. Another 3+ year project is nearing completion, the historic Oliver Holt House at 1365 Grant Road. The owner says they hope to finish in June. These two projects took determination and patience, and needless to say, came at considerable expense. We are grateful to the people who love historic properties and are willing take on the challenge of saving them.

Sadly, the charming 1920s Bungalow at 67 Lyell was recently removed from the Historic Resource Inventory at the owners request. The owner claimed "loss of historical integrity" and the Historical Commission consented. The home went on the market the very next week. In another setback, the request for Historic Landmark designation for the 1905 Emerson House at 980 Covington was denied by the City Council, against staff recommendation, due to some recent exterior changes. This will block Mills Act protection for the property, an important consideration for homeowners seeking relief from the expense of renovation and maintenance of historic properties. This relief encourages homeowners and developers to preserve our very limited stock of historic properties. These properties are the visual representation of our history and important to the charm of Los Altos. We must fiercely guard and protect each and every one.

~ Gary Hedden



The renovated barn and the happy owner, especially happy now that the construction work is done.

Remembering Margaret Thompson

The Museum's Education Committee is really going to miss our dear friend Margaret Thompson who passed away February 24 at the age of 98. We worked closely with Margaret for many years on the essay contest that bears her name.

Margaret initiated the contest while on the Los Altos Historical Commission. Her granddaughter, Mariko, recalled "Grandmother decided to start the essay contest after I won several writing awards in high school. She thought a writing contest with cash prizes was a great way to encourage kids to write. She enjoyed writing and in another era might have pursued a writing career. In the early 1940's she turned down a newspaper job writing the society page. I got the sense she always wondered what might have happened if she'd said yes."

Margaret's daughter, Susan, recalled, "I left for college early in the contest history, and all I really remember is having to hop over all the stacks of essays in the living room once a year!"

For the 25th anniversary of the contest, Margaret introduced a trophy to be engraved and given to the school with the most winning essays. Each year, a school "wins" the trophy and keeps it at their school for a year. The trophy is awarded in May at an ice cream social which recognizes the winners. She often commented that attending the social and meeting the winning students was a special highlight in her life. She truly loved children and enjoyed meeting them and their families.

As Chair of the Education Committee, it was my privilege to develop a wonderful friendship with Margaret. We would often meet for lunch, talk about the books she was reading, the news, and what was being taught in the elementary schools. She was very sharp and interested in so many things that I often forgot I was visiting a woman in her 90's. It was a privilege to count Margaret as a dear friend!

~ Anne Roberts



Anne Roberts and Margaret Thompson with the trophy. May, 2015.



51 South San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022
www.LosAltosHistory.org
650.948.9427

The Los Altos History Museum gathers and presents compelling stories and artifacts that bridge the past and the present by fostering the creative energy of staff and volunteers to challenge established narratives and produce engaging educational programs and exhibits for the community.

Board of Directors

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Nicole Andrews, 2nd Vice President
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Vicki Holman, Secretary
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Dr. Elisabeth Ward, Executive Director
Georgianna Shea, Museum Educator
Diane Holcomb, Director of Communication
Jacqui Marchessini, Events Manager
Jordan Grealish, Collection Specialist
Farshad Fallah, Office Administrator

The Los Altos History Museum's legal name is the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum; tax i.d. number 94-2542813. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are tax deductible.

Dear Historical Commissioners,

In 1977, the Historical Commission wisely decided to turn a property deeded to the City of Los Altos into a museum that would be open to the public, the J. Gilbert Smith House. Through the years, a dedicated group of grass-roots volunteers have worked with the City of Los Altos to turn that historic house into a true community asset.

No group of volunteers has done more to fulfil the vision of the Historical Commission than those who run the school tour programs. They are the ones inspiring the next generation to appreciate our area's history and heritage.

Every year, thousands of local elementary school students visit the Museum, and it is often ranked as the students' favorite field trip! They get to taste apricots, play with antique toys, step inside a tank house, and take on the roles of City Council members. These tours would never have been started, and could not be held today, without dedicated volunteers leading the children through these engaging educational "stations" that delve into specific and meaningful aspects of how people used to live in Los Altos pre-1960.

For 2022, I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of the two long-term leaders of that Education Committee who continue to this day teaching the area's young people about our local history, Dick Liewer and Anne Roberts. Their nomination will be appreciated by all the volunteers on the Education Committee as a recognition of their hard work. Anne and Dick helped the Committee re-imagine their role during the pandemic to keep reaching out to schools through online offerings, and this year, they have led the Committee to revamp their offerings again, as they step into the personas of historic characters.

Anne and Dick also deserve special recognition for two specific activities of the Education Committee that they have personally invested in over the years. Dick Liewer, when he was chair of the committee, spearheaded the expansion of the tour to include 4th grade students, rather than just 3rd graders, and found topics that fit with 4th grade curriculum for that field trip. In doing so, he doubled the impact of the Museum on our community.

Anne Roberts has been particularly invested in the Margaret Thomson Essay Contest, working closely with Historical Commissioners for well over a decade to make sure that contest for elementary school students is a success.

Therefore, for both their vital leadership of the foundational Education Committee and for their individual contributions inspiring local school children to appreciate and love history, Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer deserve this award and the community's recognition and appreciation.

Thank you,

Dr. Elisabeth I. Ward, Executive Director



los altos
history
museum

It is with great pleasure that I write to support the nomination of Anne Roberts and Dick Liewer for the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award. As the new Museum Educator, I have been fortunate to witness Dick and Ann's dedication, passion, and tireless work on our third and fourth grade school history tours. Annually, over the course of two months, approximately 1000 Los Altos students, parents, and teachers visit the museum for tours featuring Los Altos local history. Anne and Dick have helped to create this vibrant programming and continue to go above and beyond to assure the tours run smoothly and are a valuable educational experience and resource for students and teachers.

It is important to educate students at a young age in order to make a meaningful and lasting impact, and that is exactly what Ann and Dick have done. Thanks to their efforts, thousands of students understand, appreciate, and value Los Altos history and the community they live in. At the Museum, we have a saying, "Where the Past shapes the Future", and I feel that exemplifies the work Dick and Anne contribute. They teach young students about Los Altos' past and shape future generations by instilling in them an appreciation for the history of Los Altos.

As a former educator, I recognize the impact an individual can have on a student. Anne and Dick continue to educate and inspire students as they share their knowledge and passion for the rich and important history in Los Altos. Through their perseverance, they have made sure that Los Altos local history is an important area of study for every student in the Los Altos School District.

Kind regards,

Georgianna Shea

Georgianna Shea, Museum Educator
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