



PARDEE HOME MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Oakland City Landmark, 1975
National Register of
Historic Places, 1976
California Historical Landmark,
1998

SEPTEMBER 2000

Pardee Home's Second Annual Fourth of July Picnic Was a Tremendous Success

Aided by outstanding advance publicity and by the only sunny weather during a two-week spell of otherwise perpetual grey, the Pardee Home's Fourth of July picnic was a magnificent event. An *Oakland Tribune* column by new board member Annalee Allen proclaimed, "Historic Pardee Home Will Host Victorian-Style Fourth of July Fete," and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, playing off the popularity of the BBC series airing at that time on KQED, advertised a "1900 House for the Fourth" and suggested that its readers "time travel to a nineteenth-century Victorian home like the Bowler family's on PBS' *1900 House* reality show. Spend an afternoon on the lawn playing the exhilarating yet civilized Victorian games of badminton and croquet. Feast, ever so politely, on popular turn-of-the-century delicacies and beverages. Let the Pardee begin!"

Last year fifty people attended our first ever Fourth of July picnic. This year seventy-five people called in reservations, but almost one hundred and fifty attended!



Let the Pardee begin! . . . Museum volunteer Karen McKinney and registrar Vicki Wiese pose in their lovely turn-of-the-century dresses, sewn by Karen, moments before the festivities begin.

They approached the festivities through the Twelfth Street entrance to our coach house, decorated with new plantings of gorgeous flowers, courtesy of our loyal garden volunteers and neighbors, Nick and Lois Sarley. Museum staff and volunteers had labored mightily to produce mounds of fried chicken (in three varieties — garlic, curry, and honey), cole slaw (traditional and Mexican), jalapeno double cornbread (a house specialty — recipe below!), potato salad, and much more, all of which was gobbled down before the event was half-over!

Our well-fed guests moved on to spirited games of badminton and croquet, to casual tours of the house, and to an old-fashioned exercise in patriotic rhetoric from the back porch. As Museum Director David Nicolai explained during a story on the picnic which appeared that evening on the Bay-TV evening news, the historical authenticity of the Pardee Home and yard made a perfect setting for a memorable celebration of our country's independence.

By popular demand . . .

Pardee Home Fourth of July Cornbread

1/2 cup flour
1-1/2 cup corn meal
2-1/2 tsp. baking powder
3 tblsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 cup milk

3 eggs
1 large can (16 oz.) can creamed corn
1 small can chopped jalapeno peppers
1-1/2 lb. grated cheddar cheese
1 chopped large onion
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl and mix well; add remaining ingredients and mix well once again; bake in a medium oven for about one hour, or until firm and slightly brown on top.

Cheryl Maslin — Intern and Volunteer *Extraordinaire*

For the past year and a half, one of the most stalwart supporters of the Pardee Home Museum has been Cheryl Maslin, who first came to the house to fulfill a course requirement for her graduate work in museum studies at San Francisco State University. Cheryl had to complete a *practicum* in collections management shortly after we had removed a special holiday exhibit of candle sticks and other lighting devices, so she was able to catalog, photograph, and rehouse all these objects before they were returned to storage — mundane work to many, but vital work to well-run museums. Also, Cheryl is a committed young professional in the museum world, and a true “idea” person at that, so she soon found herself assisting museum staff with development and fundraising proposals, while completing her *practicum* work.

An outstanding example of Cheryl’s ongoing interest in the Pardee Home was the letter she wrote which appeared in the Sunday “pink section” of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, during the very popular Carleton Watkins exhibit at the S.F. Museum of Modern Art last year, in which she reminded the many visitors to that exhibit that they should journey over to Oakland to admire the remarkable Watkins lighting fixture which graces the central hallway of the Pardee Home. She offered a succinct and accurate history of our valuable chandelier to *Chronicle* readers in her excellent letter.

Cheryl has also volunteered many hours of assistance to our holiday and Fourth of July events, but, more importantly,

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Cheryl Maslin admiring an end product of her digitization project.



Annalee Allen



John Dalal



Frank Howard

Pardee Home Foundation Welcomes Three New Trustees

In recent months the foundation has augmented its board with the addition of three new trustees — Annalee Allen, John Dalal, and Frank Howard — all of whom show great promise for promoting the Pardee Home Museum.

Annalee is no newcomer to the historic preservation movement in Oakland. A longtime member and past president of the Oakland Heritage Alliance, Annalee is also well-known locally for her columns on local history and architecture, which appeared in the *Montclarion* before her “Landmarks” column debuted in the *Oakland Tribune* in 1996. Annalee has also served on the city’s Landmarks Board since 1992 and has coordinated the Oakland Tours program, which offers seven different free walking tours of downtown Oakland led by volunteer guides, for the past four years. A native of Berkeley and art history graduate of UCLA, Annalee has lived in the Rockridge neighborhood since 1978 with her husband and three sons.

John has lived in Oakland’s Jack London neighborhood since 1997, when he and his partner, Aaron Sauberan, relocated from New York City to Oakland. They have purchased and beautifully renovated an 1876 Italianate cottage on Martin Luther King Way, just blocks from the Pardee Home. John is a native of Long Island, New York and a fine arts graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa. He returned to New York after college and worked in his father’s textile import business in Manhattan, and he continues to import and design textiles as the sole proprietor of *Maharaja Me* here in Oakland. During the past year John has devoted much of his spare time to working on critical zoning and design review issues for the Jack London Neighborhood Association, helping to preserve the residential and historic quality of his (and our) neighborhood.

Frank is an Oakland native, a graduate of Oakland High (the alma mater of both Governor and Mrs. Pardee and two of their four daughters), and of UC-Berkeley and Hastings College of Law. Frank served, appropriately enough, on the legal staff of EBMUD for thirty years, from 1957 to 1987, then relocated to the Washington, D.C. area, where he practiced privately and for government agencies for seven years, before returning to Oakland as a private practice attorney in 1995. A resident of Walnut Creek and father of four with seven grandchildren, Frank stays busy serving the Boy Scouts, local historical societies, and the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, where he chairs the Lake Committee, which works to beautify and preserve the surroundings of our beloved Lake Merritt.

