



The Cupola

Newsletter
of the
PARDEE HOME MUSEUM

Winter 2026

*Oakland City Landmark
1975*

*National Register of Historical Places
1976*

*Alameda County Historical Society
Landmark
1985*

*California Historic Landmark
1998*

Madeline's Bedroom



Before:



After:



The Grand Lady Gets A New Wardrobe of Fresh Wallpaper

By Richelle Lieberman

The Pardee Home Museum, a California Historical Landmark, an Oakland City Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, dates back to 1868. At 158 years old, this grand dame has witnessed and actively played a part in both Oakland and California history. She has also gone through earthquakes, roof leaks and the "settling" that most mature bodies experience.

While the interior first floor of the house has been painted quite recently, the wall coverings in the second floor were last redone back in the 1950's. These walls of the upstairs rooms needed to be updated but we knew that some special care was necessary before any cosmetic upgrade could be applied.

In our search for an historically appropriate and significant design, the internationally famous Bradbury & Bradbury Wallpaper Company (formerly of Benicia, now of Sacramento) was approached (<https://bradbury.com/>). They enthusiastically agreed to help with the "facelift".

Master Bedroom



Before:



After:



Twin Bed Room



Before:



During:



After:



Steve Bauer, current Bradbury and Bradbury owner, meticulously researched stylish wallpapers of the late 1800's and designed "sets" for the walls and ceilings of three bedrooms and the billiard room upstairs in the home. One of the specialized designs created, is now listed in Bradbury & Bradbury's international catalogue as "The Pardee".

Skilled craftsman/wallpaper installer, Joel Lucas (<https://opengovus.com/california-a-contractor-license/572414>), was hired to do his magic repairing our walls and applying the specially designed paper to the walls. The job was far from easy...major adjustments and repair of the walls were part of the lengthy procedure, but after four months the results are exquisite and our fine lady has had the "facelift" she so very much deserved, thanks to our budget plan and a special contribution.

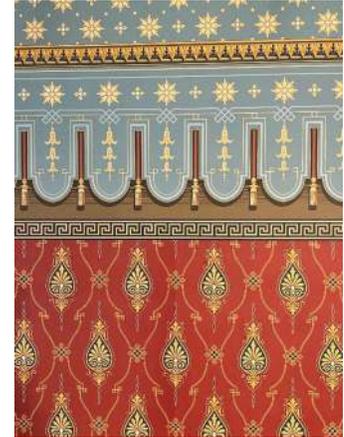
The photos show much of the process, but a visit will truly show the magnificence of the finished project. You can see the finished product on a reserved tour or after having tea at the home, but the splendor will be officially shared on Sunday March 22, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. with a special not-to-be-missed lecture and tour given by Bradbury & Bradbury's Steve and Lisa Bauer. Tickets for this event are available on Eventbrite at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-reveal-tickets-1983124824735>

Please Join us! We would love to have you here.



Billiard Room



Before:



During:



After:



The Old Board Room Is Now Our New EBMUD / Pardee Exhibit Space

The Board Room has been transformed into an exhibit space focusing on George Pardee and the construction of the Pardee Dam, which was the central project of George Pardee's life. George joined the EBMUD Board and became its president in 1924. During his 17-year tenure as president of EBMUD, he led the construction of the dam, the reservoir and the delivery system, which supplied and piped water to homes and businesses in the East Bay. At the time the dam was finished and the water flowing, it was the highest dam in the world.

In 2024, the 100th anniversary of George's joining and becoming president of the EBMUD Board, a "Water Warrior" celebration was held at the Pardee Home Museum to honor George as well as EBMUD and other Bay Area water leaders. The celebration speakers included the current manager of EBMUD, Clifford Chan; Jared Huffman, Congressman from Marin County, and ranking member of the National Resource Subcommittee of the US Congress; and Peter Gleick, who had recently published his book, *The Three Ages of Water*, and spoke about future needs for water projects in California, the nation and the world.

The board room / exhibit space renovation was funded by EBMUD to acknowledge Pardee's contribution to the success of EBMUD's water system, a municipal system that continues to deliver clean water to the East Bay from the Sierra snowpack. EBMUD currently delivers clean water to a million and a half customers.

Featured in the room are photographs of the construction of the dam and a hand-drawn portrait of George, drawn by his daughter. There are documents displayed on the tables with books that explain the history of EBMUD and a dissertation on George Pardee written by a UC Berkeley grad student.

EBMUD's management and public relations department and The Pardee Home now enjoy an ongoing professional and supportive relationship. EBMUD is proud to recognize Pardee as their founder and to honor his contribution of delivering

clean water to the East Bay. The Pardee Home now has visual recognition of the water company's success and programs. We hope to further this relationship through other projects and appreciate that guests that now tour the house are able to learn of the history of George Pardee and EBMUD.



Paul Silberstein and Shayne del Cohen, PHM Board, with Clifford Chan, EBMUD General Manager



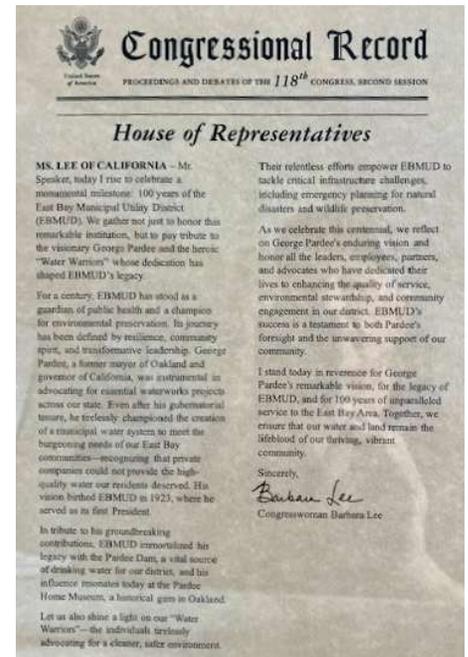
Congressman Jared Huffman



EBMUD Board member, Bill Patterson, cuts the ribbon at entrance to new exhibit space



New Exhibit Space for EBMUD



Barbara Lee's Tribute to EBMUD and George Pardee while in Congress



PHM Board Member Paul Silberstein showing Pardee Dam photo to two children.



**Isaiah Campbell,
Our New Caretaker**



Since last June, Isaiah Campbell has been the caretaker of the Pardee Home Museum. He lives in the caretaker's room next to the kitchen and helps us with setting up our events as well as providing a welcome presence in the house when no others are there. We enjoy having him be part of our team at PHM. Please say hi to him if you see him when you visit.

Isaiah Campbell (Him/His) is a Bay Area native and museum professional at The Pardee Home Museum. He will receive his undergraduate degree from SF State in Environmental Science 2026.

He fosters a deep passion for environmental justice and is committed to advancing equitable solutions to climate challenges through social awareness. His area of research interest includes Biotic resources and habitat conservation through mitigation strategies and initiatives.

He has worked with the Environmental Democracy Project since 2023 and is currently collaborating with the West Oakland Cultural Action Network on a Clean Ports Project with the Port of Oakland. He was also the proud recipient of the Young Climate Leaders Cohort grant in 2025. His goal is to promote environmental awareness and healthy lifestyles to local youth.

**Gene Anderson presents:
Old Town Oakland 1850 - 1900**



Gene Anderson, author of "Legendary Locals of Oakland", is a fourth-generation Oakland resident. His great-grandparents lived in West Oakland, and his great-grandfather worked for the South Pacific Company on a ferry boat, the only way to cross the Bay before there was a bridge. Gene was born in Long Beach but raised in Michigan, where his mother was from, and the family would visit the Bay Area every spring. He eventually moved to the Bay to attend college and ended up staying.

Mr. Anderson's interest in Oakland history took off in 2009, at a time when the city was in the national spotlight following the killing of Oscar Grant. That's when he started a blog called "Our Oakland." He would ride his bike around town and take pictures of old signs he'd come across during his rides. The more photos he posted, the more readers of the blog would comment with personal stories connecting them to those old and forgotten signs. It was through those comments and the discovery of local stories that Gene realized how much of Oakland's history was little known outside of small circles of residents. "I discovered that there's a lot of people that are known.—not necessarily well known, but known in Oakland and the history is fascinating.

Gene's talk was very well received.



Volunteer Application

Yes! I want to volunteer at the Pardee Historic Home Museum.

- Tea Committee
- Docent
- Other: _____

Membership Application

YES! I want to become a member of the Pardee Historic Home Museum.

- Student \$25
- Individual \$50
- Friend \$150
- Patron \$500
- History Advocate \$1,000
- Major Supporter \$2,500
- New Member Renewing

Please join or renew on our website:
<https://pardeehome.org/membership/#join>

Thank You for your Help!



Upcoming Event

March 22 2-4pm: The Big Reveal!

Please join us to see our newly wallpapered rooms and hear from Steve Bauer, the designer, about the process he took in creating the patterns.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-reveal-tickets-1983124824735>

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM 2026 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

By Karen Glasser, Board Chair

Sources of Income:

Our financial condition continues to be strong. This is due not only to the success of our wonderful teas and tours, Sunday Salons and site rentals, but also thanks to member contributions, bequests, grants, donations and investments.

This year we served 71 teas to 640 guests. Teas were served in our historic dining room and in months with better weather, in our beautiful garden. **Tours, both for the public or included with teas, numbered 86 and included 671 guests.**

Projects:

Yard Maintenance - pruned trees along Castro Street, landscaped the 11th Street and Castro median strip with daffodil bulbs and the 11th Street median strip with native plants. The solid fence on Castro and 11th Street was painted and pickets were repaired.

House Maintenance -

Appliances were repaired, broken windows were fixed, a bathroom sink was installed in the porch bathroom, new display cabinets were installed in the gift shop.

Primary project - repair the badly cracked walls and damaged wallpaper in the upstairs rooms of the house. As we like to say, "The dear lady had a facelift" and the upstairs rooms are looking terrific!

Organizational Improvements:

Board Member **Shayne del Cohen**, continued to work on the Board Management Manual and has been interviewing board

members and other volunteers, keeping videos and photos of events and documenting happenings at the Home.

The **Membership Committee (Gloria Taylor, Russ Nelson, Charly Taylor, Sue Bachman, Sue Coffin)** re-examined and revitalized the membership area of our organization, streamlining the categories of membership, the process for on-line donating and membership renewal.

Dora Czifra continues to help with our website, email blasts and management of our database.

Archiving & Collections:

The **Collections Team (Leigh Carroll, Max Abrams and Cherie Donahue)** continued to digitize our collection. Max worked on the scrimshaw cabinet and will move on from there once that is complete. This time consuming but valuable endeavor allows PHM's collection to be an increasing asset for the community and for research in the future.

A grant from the state of California's **California Revealed Project** that accepted the Pardee Family's photo albums for digitization and uploaded them to California Revealed's website -

https://californiarevealed.org/search?search_api_fulltext=pardee%20home

Docents:

The docents continue to provide quality tours. Public tours continue twice a month by appointment, and tours are offered by our trained docents along with every booked tea. One new docent was added in 2025. Sadly, one of our docents, Renée Cameto, passed away this year.

Events & Excursions:

Our board and volunteers enjoyed field trips in 2025 - **tour of the Paramount Theater** and a **visit to the Bradbury & Bradbury factory** in Benecia

Our Event Chair and Carriage House Salon curator, **Richelle Lieberman**, coordinated some wonderful "salon" events which included **Kristen Craven's "For the Love of Joaquin Miller"** and **Sacha Grippando's lecture on Jewelry of the Gilded Age.**

We reinstated our old-fashioned, **4th of July Picnic**, which was happily attended by more than 100 guests. Fredrick Hodges entertained us on the piano with songs of the period.

Board Member **Gloria Taylor** coordinated with the National Women's History Alliance to host a special event in October celebrating the **114th Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote in California.**

Tea Volunteers were treated to a **Tea Committee Luncheon** and all volunteers were invited to enjoy our **Annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ** as well as our **Annual Volunteer Holiday Party.**

Looking Ahead:

Continued efforts are needed to recruit tea, Board and docent volunteers as well as to increase our membership roster.

2026 prioritized projects include replacement of worn walkways, repairing the "barn door" of the carriage house, assessing roof repairs needed to our various buildings and repairing our irrigation system. We will work hard to keep this Oakland treasure thriving and an asset to the community.

**Pardee Home Museum
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Oakland, CA 94607-3651**

The Cupola

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The Pardee Historic Home Museum, Inc. is a private non-profit organization originally established in 1981 as the Pardee Home Foundation to preserve, interpret, and keep the historic home and gardens of the Pardee family open to the public.

Pardee Historic Home Museum, Inc. Directors

Ron Bachman
Sue Bachman, Corresponding Secretary
Sue Coffin, Treasurer
Shayne Del Cohen, Chair Assistant
Cherie Donahue
Karen Glasser, Acting Chair
Michael Henn
Richelle Lieberman
Russell Nelson, Cupola Editor
Paul Silberstein
Charlotte Taylor, Recording Secretary
Gloria Taylor

