

PALOS VERDES BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE PALOS VERDES HOMES ASSOCIATION ~ ESTABLISHED 1924 ~ REPRESENTING PALOS VERDES ESTATES & MIRALESTE

CITIZEN ARCHITECT: DON HENDRICKSON

Some people are so passionate about where they live that they do not just live in their community—rather, their community lives within them. Such was true for the late Donald E. Hendrickson: devoted family man, architect, neighbor and Palos Verdes Estates Art Jury president.

Written by Diane E. Barber

FAMILY FIRST

Don Hendrickson was born in Glendale and grew up with two brothers in San Bernardino, where his parents owned and operated a retail paint store. In 1948 he and his twin brother, Ron, were accepted at UC Berkley and majored in architecture. After they graduated, Don was hired by Douglas Aircraft Company in Santa Monica to design airplane interiors. It was through the aerospace industry that he was introduced to his wife, Jaimee from Inglewood, on a blind date in the early 1950s.

“Our parents met when my father was 24 and my mother was 25,” shares their eldest son, Chris. “My mother worked at North American Aviation at the time, and a co-worker introduced them. They married a year later, moved to Redondo Beach and started our family.”

As the family grew (their daughter Susie was born in 1956, followed by their three sons, Chris, Eric and Craig), so did Don’s and Jaimee’s commitment to their children and reverence for the community. According to Chris, family was always their first priority.

“Though both of our parents were dedicated professionals, they were always there for us. Susie had juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and they did everything they could for her. Our father built a swimming pool especially for her water therapy exercise, and he designed a special ramp that was installed around the side of the house for her wheelchair.”

Don’s deep appreciation for nature was also at the heart of his life. There were many Hendrickson family camping trips to Yosemite and other outdoor adventures over the years, though it was the ocean that he especially enjoyed.

“Our father loved the ocean,” notes Chris. “He often went to Avenue I in Redondo Beach for a swim at the end of the day, and one of his greatest passions was sailing. He and his good friend Bob Williams (a fellow architect in his office) competed every year in the Newport to Ensenada International Yacht Race. Bob had the boat docked in the L.A. Harbor in San Pedro. They never won, but they always had a full ice chest and a great time.”

Beyond his cherished private life, Don kept his finger on the pulse of the local happenings. He was an avid reader and never missed the *Daily Breeze* and *Los Angeles Times* newspapers. He and Jaimee



Courtesy of the Hendrickson Family

were very active in Rolling Hills Covenant Church, and they enjoyed dining out. (The Red Onion and the Palos Verdes Golf Club for a martini topped the list of Don’s local favorites.)

“Our father was a generous neighbor who gave freely of his time,” says Chris. “Though he was generally a homebody, he liked to travel with our mother to Western Europe and spend time in Palm Desert. They also loved going to San Francisco and Santa Barbara to enjoy time with my brothers and their families. As for his architectural career, he lived and breathed the community and his life’s work here.”

REVERED ARCHITECT

In addition to being the proud patriarch of his beloved family, Don Hendrickson became a highly respected pillar of architectural integrity in Palos Verdes. After commuting for several years from the Peninsula to his job with Douglas Aircraft Company, Don set his sights on working close to home and pursuing his passion for residential architecture.

In 1957 he answered a newspaper employment ad for an architect opening at Quigley and Clark above the former Moore’s Market in Malaga Cove Plaza. He

was hired, and three years later he became a partner. The architectural firm was named Clark, Hendrickson and Knox in 1960 and renamed Hendrickson and Knox in 1965. After his partner, Bob Knox, perished in an airline crash in 1977, Don operated the business as Donald E. Hendrickson, AIA.

During the latter years at Hendrickson and Knox, George Martin—a young freelance draftsman and student—went to work for Don. Unbeknownst to Martin at the time, he was not only embarking upon an exceptional 18-year professional experience but also a lifelong personal friendship.

“Don was a role model and father figure to me, and I thought the world of him,” says Martin. “He was a man of very high integrity, which showed in his work and family life. Though he was an extremely talented classical designer, I appreciated his humanistic side more than anything. He always treated everyone with kindness and respect, and it was important to him that his staff enjoyed working with him. We regularly had morning coffee breaks with him, Friday lunches, dinners and office Christmas parties every year. He never had the heart to let anyone go even when he

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was disappointed in their work, so he usually waited until they went to school or moved on. I was really blessed to have him and his family in my life.”

After many years of submitting his architectural projects to the city and serving as a planning commissioner from 1966 to 1978, Don was invited to join the Palos Verdes Estates Art Jury in 1985. Fellow architect and longtime Art Jury co-member George Sweeney had known Don for many years socially before Don asked him to join in 1987.

“I met Don in 1966 when his firm in Malaga Cove was across the hall from an architect’s office where I was working as a draftsman at the time. Twenty-one years later, at Don’s recommendation, I was invited to become a member of the Art Jury,” recalls Sweeney.

They worked alongside each other for more than 30 years, during which time Don semi-retired from his practice in 1997 and became president of the Art Jury in 2000. According to Sweeney, all business matters were handled in a collegial and mutual consensus fashion with decisions rarely going to vote. He attributes this to Don’s leadership skills and good nature.

“Don was easygoing and a man of goodwill who was always trying to help others—both personally and professionally,” Sweeney says. “He especially liked helping applicants solve design issues. Though he was generally conservative, he was open to new ideas and clearly understood good architecture and bad architecture. He always tried to evaluate projects without getting stuck on the rules while at the same time staying within the confines of good architecture. I came to increasingly appreciate his excellent understanding of architecture over the years. Whether Italian Tuscan, Spanish colonial, contemporary or other styles, his knowledge was very apparent in Art Jury reviews, which made him a very valuable asset to us and to the community.”

Though Don was semi-retired, he continued to design both residential and commercial buildings on the Peninsula and throughout Los Angeles while he served on the Art Jury.

“Don was respected and admired by all of us here at PVHA and by his colleagues on the Art Jury. He was a talented architect who was considerate, smart, patient and without a doubt one of the most prolific architects here on the hill. I learned so much from him in the weekly and bimonthly Art Jury meetings from the moment I came on board in 2015. Time and time again when we open plans from the PVHA vault, we see the Hendrickson name on the title block. We all enjoyed his stories about projects, life experiences and local history. Don had a dry and witty sense of humor. Now and then he would say something so unexpected and funny it would get all of us in stitches. I am grateful for the privilege and honor of working with him. His service to this community was immeasurable. He will be dearly missed.”

Suzie Balentine, architectural inspector and senior planner for the PVHA and Art Jury, had the good fortune to work closely with Don over the last 16



The 2009 Art Jury in Action:
Jeffrey Dahl
Doug Leach
Don Hendrickson, President
George Sweeney, Vice President
George Shaw

Courtesy PalosVerdes Homes Association and Art Jury Archives: pvhaa.org

years. “His life was disciplined—reflecting the architect’s natural love of order, but he allowed himself to balance his career with family, friends and his many interests. He stopped and smelled the roses on his life’s journey—a lesson to us all. Don was truly one of the good guys.”

The professional legacy of Don Hendrickson will live on through his commitment to time-honored architecture and the architectural vision that shaped Palos Verdes Estates. According to a 2007 interview archived by the Palos Verdes Library, some of Don’s favorite projects were in Lunada Bay: a Mediterranean revival home on Paseo la Cresta that appealed to his traditional side and two contemporary residences that he designed on Paseo del Mar. When asked what he most enjoyed about those projects, he unsurprisingly answered, “The clients.”

Whether designing his own projects or reviewing the work of others as a member of the Art Jury, Don’s heart-led professionalism and architectural excellence was unwavering and always grounded in integrity. “I was fortunate to know Don as a friend. Everyone who knew him appreciated him. He was a good man who gave everything he had to give to his family, colleagues, friends and the community. We are all going to miss him very much,” says Sweeney.

Donald E. Hendrickson was preceded in death by his older brother, Harvey; his twin brother, Ron; his wife, Jaimee; and his daughter, Susie. He is survived by his sons, Chris, Eric (wife Bonnie), Craig (wife Lori), and many nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Don Hendrickson and Bob Williams aboard the “Bay Bee” on one of their many Newport to Ensenada Races.

Courtesy of the Hendrickson Family

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF THE MIRLO GATE TOWER

Most residents are familiar with the quirky, stone building at the top of the hill as you enter the Valmonte neighborhood of Palos Verdes Estates. The idea for the east entrance started at an Art Jury meeting in late 1924. Notes from the meeting said the new east entrance would get “an attractive treatment,” complete with trees, shrubs, curbing and sidewalks. But by spring of 1925, building commissioner, Art Jury member and architect Clarence E. Howard, had presented plans for a “charming” circular tower for the new east entrance. Whereas the north entrance would “plunge directly into the wood of eucalyptus through an opening as narrow as would be practicable and dignified” (Fredrick Law Olmstead), the east entrance would present the new residents with a feeling of the pastoral, while highlighting one of Palos Verdes’ natural and most abundant resources, PV stone.

When the tower was being constructed, there were only 20 homes on the 3,200 acres of Palos Verdes Estates, and only one of the homes was in the Valmonte neighborhood. Commercially there was only the La Vente Inn, the Palos Verdes Golf Club, and the very beginnings of the Palos Verdes Riding Academy and the Gardner Building in Malaga Cove Plaza. All except for the Gardner Building were designed or co-designed by Howard.

Construction on the Mirlo Gate Tower began that summer and took less than five months to construct. The tower is a meld of old, Irish stonelaying methods and Scottish, bond bricklaying methods. Many people may not know that the tower is ingeniously built with two “faces”—the exterior Palos Verdes stone face and the interior brick face, tied together with horizontal through-stones. The tower embodies generations of stonemason techniques and the design is closely modeled after stone towers Howard likely saw on his travels through France after the first World War. The tower is two stories with a basement. Upon entering the tower, one immediately sees the massive, exposed, wood beams with evidence of sawmill cuts, and a large fireplace and hearth made of PV stone. Rounding the stairs onto the second story takes you to the sleeping quarters. One again has to marvel at the exposed, wood beam ceiling, the smooth walls with rounded edges and iron decorative fixtures. It is as if one went back in time to a small, European city.

Howard was a quiet, humble man according to his colleagues. He graduated from Syracuse University with an architecture degree in 1902, worked for several prestigious design firms and studied architecture and city planning at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, while also assisting with the city plans for Chicago, San Francisco and Cleveland. Howard organized the

city planning department for the city of Syracuse. There he began his working relationship with the Olmsted Brothers. His first projects for the Olmsteds included designing the Rainbow Pool and its landscape architecture at the Lincoln Memorial and managing the architecture department for the San Francisco World’s Fair Exposition in 1915. Not coincidentally, the California exhibition building was in the “old Spanish Mission style.” Howard taught city planning at the American E.F. Art Training Centre in Paris, France. Seeing the destruction in northern France, specifically Chauny—bombed-out, crumbling cathedrals, streets riddled with broken stone—Howard further developed his philosophy that a newly built environment should be influenced by its surrounding hills, marshes and rivers with the separation of industry, commercial, residential, parks and playgrounds into districts.

When Howard came to Palos Verdes and built the stone tower, he brought a truly unique and rare vision of an auteur. Together with the (hopefully soon-to-be-identified) stonemason, they created a feeling of the past and the sustainable future.

Kate Eggert is an author and historic preservation consultant, currently researching and writing a National Register nomination for the Mirlo Gate Tower. She co-owns her historic preservation consulting firm, GEHPC, with her wife, Krisy Gosney.



Mirlo Gate Lodge
photo circa 1925

Courtesy of PalosVerdes Homes Association Photo Collection palosverdeshistory.org

HOMES ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **93rd Annual Meeting announcement and ballot mailings:** As a continuation of efforts to encourage increased member participation, PVHA will be sending out three mailings. Keep a lookout in your mailbox for the annual meeting materials, member verification and Board of Directors election ballot. Please help us reach a quorum required to conduct business, by returning your member verifications and ballots by mail as soon as possible and before the close of elections on January 2, 2019. The 93rd Annual Meeting will be held on January 8, 2019 at 8 p.m. in Palos Verdes Estates City Council Chambers.
- **October Board Meeting in Miraleste:** As is customary, PVHA holds a board meeting once a year in Miraleste, for the convenience of Rancho Palos Verdes Members. The PVHA board welcomes members to Miraleste Plaza #19, on October 23 at 4:30 p.m. Time will be set aside for asking questions and addressing concerns as well as the general business meeting.
- **PVE Cares Senior Health and Wellness Faire:** PVHA will host an information booth and provide refreshments at the 13th Annual PVE Cares Senior Health and Wellness Faire on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Palos Verdes Golf Club. PVHA is again donating two tickets to a performance at the Norris Theater, which will be raffled off during this event.
- **Accessory Dwelling Units:** As you may have heard, the State of California adopted SB 229 and AB 494, legislation related to the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which went into effect January 1, 2018. Please note that the State law does not prohibit PVHA’s ability to regulate accessory structures and does not override the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs), which apply to all properties in Palos

Verdes Estates and the Miraleste area of Rancho Palos Verdes. If you are considering constructing an accessory building, please consult with PVHA prior to engaging an architect and initiating the process with the city.

- **Palos Verdes Specialist Program:** This three-day course is offered by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Association of Realtors twice a year. On May 24, 2018, PVHA conducted a seminar and question and answer session with the City of PVE, to educate real estate professionals about the PVHA, the Art Jury, Deed Restrictions (CC&Rs), the importance of obtaining property compliance reports, building, construction, property improvements, and other information about working within the jurisdiction of the PVHA in the city of Palos Verdes Estates and the Miraleste area of Rancho Palos Verdes. Agents who earn the title of “Certified Palos Verdes Specialist” from PVPAR have attended the PVHA seminar and successfully completed this course.



- **Harry Brandel Scholarship:** Scholarship Committee Chair Nancy Brandel and PVHA Director Carol Beth Cozen presented two of the scholarships to graduating Palos Verdes High School seniors at the annual Sea King Community Scholarship Dinner on May 21, 2018.
- **City of PVE and PVHA Ad Hoc Committee:** The third meeting of this committee, consisting of representatives from the city of PVE, City Council and Planning Commission, PVHA Board of Directors, Art Jury and staff was

held on January 18, 2018 to continue analysis of processes and best practices to improve the experience and outcomes of the submittal and review process. This was a publicly noticed meeting and time was provided for public comment. A report was presented for PVE and PVHA Art Jury residential development process flow. Use of impact assessment as a tool for review was studied, as well as a database of PVE residential project approvals.

- **Joint meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission and Palos Verdes Homes Association** took place Thursday, January 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Malaga Cove Library. The items discussed were updates from the PVE/PVHA Ad Hoc Committee, codifying the requirement of Art Jury/PVHA approval prior to obtaining permits, and consideration of ordinance for Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units in response to changes in State law.

- **Lunada Bay Beautification Project:** The LBHOA initiated this project in 2014, in collaboration with the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy, to restore habitat and improve the appearance of areas in Lunada Bay. At the PVHA Board of directors meeting in March of 2018, the Lunada Bay Homeowners Association leadership presented the Beautify Lunada Bay Project plan, donor funding, and details including community support and engagement. The PVHA Board approved the request for donations for phase 1b of the plan. Phase 1a is complete and is located across from Lunada Bay Elementary School. For more information, to donate or volunteer go to lbhoa.org/BeautifyLunadaBay

- **Heal the Bay Coastal Cleanup Day 2018:** Saturday, September 15, 2018. PVHA supports this important cause that impacts our community through

staff volunteering. For more information, go to healthebay.org



- **Annual 4th of July Celebration:** This fun community event was held at Malaga Cove School. Director Dale Hoffman continued the tradition of a Board member volunteering on the judge’s panel of the “It’s as apple pie as America” contest. The PVHA supports this event with an annual donation.

- **Mirlo Gate Lodge Tower:** This unique round stone building was commissioned by the Palos Verdes Homes Association in 1925 to mark the eastern entrance of Palos Verdes Estates. It was designed by architect and then Building Commissioner Clarence E. Howard. At the May meeting of the PVHA Board of Directors, a donation was approved to help fund the efforts of the Committee for Preservation and Historic Registry Status, after the members delivered an in-depth presentation and showed community support behind their initiative. The committee seeks to obtain California and National Registry status to preserve this building and site for its historical significance.

BRANDEL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2018 – 2019

Harry M. Brandel Jr. served on the Palos Verdes Homes Association Board of Directors as director and president for many years. When he passed away in 1999, the PVHA Board established an educational scholarship in his memory. The goal of the Harry M. Brandel Jr. Scholarship is to award funds to qualified applicants who are majoring in or intend to major in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land use planning, historic preservation or fine arts at an accredited college or university. Applications are available at PVHA.org, at the Palos Verdes Homes Association office and at many of the local high school college centers.



Jeremy Adler: As a recent graduate of Palos Verdes High School, Jeremy will be attending the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami in the fall. This multi-talented and accomplished student’s goal is to pursue a career as a jazz vocalist and music arranger. Jeremy’s training and experience is impressive, with countless performances in marching and jazz bands, vocal ensembles and solo appearances.



Mara Breene: Mara, a former student at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, is currently attending Santa Monica College, where she is studying fine arts photography. Inspired by the beauty of nature, this young artist excels in black and white film photography. One of Mara’s goals is to create an artist mentorship program for local students, something she found invaluable growing up.



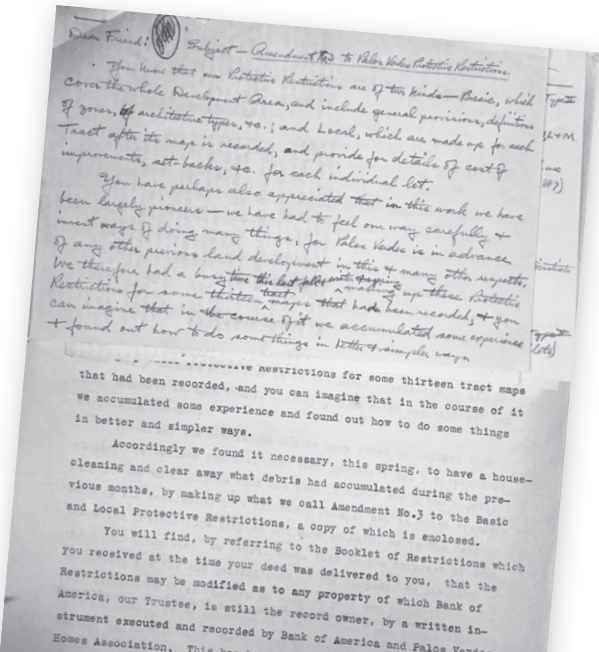
Christian Galvin: Having graduated from Palos Verdes High School in June of 2018, Christian will attend the University of Texas, majoring in civil engineering with a concentration in structures. While his passion is for engineering, Christian also has a strong interest in the rehabilitation of historic bridges. Christian has done an internship at BCA, a structural engineering firm in Orange and one day plans on becoming a structural engineer in California.



Brooke Vanderdonck: A returning scholarship recipient, Brooke graduated from Palos Verdes High School in 2017. She enters her second year at New York University at the New Studio for Musical Theatre. Her rigorous program encompasses educational curriculum, dance, vocal and acting. We can’t wait to see Brooke on Broadway someday and wish her much success.

FROM THE VAULT: ARCHIVES UPDATE

Over the summer, an archival inventory cataloging historic and notable items held in the master property files of the Palos Verdes Homes Association has been taking place. During the course of the inventory many wonderful items documenting the history of the Peninsula have been re-discovered and are being documented for ease of access. Some of these items include working documents of the founders of Palos Verdes Estates including Charles Cheney, Jay Lawyer, and the Olmsted Brothers. The documents demonstrate the evolution of amendments to declarations during the establishment of the Protective Restrictions, Conditions, Covenants, and Reservations of the city of Palos Verdes Estates during the period between 1924 through 1926. Within the correspondence, the ongoing debates and discussion regarding acceptable types of architecture, street grades, side yards, suitable tiles, and a definition of “single family dwelling” among so many details are actively deliberated and brought to life. Throughout, the working notes and marginalia, there are references to future prospects and changes made in response to concerns of property owners’ expectations for the future. The documents demonstrate the way the founders approached, discussed, and ensured their vision for the enduring beauty of the Peninsula as it exists today. As the inventory of these papers continues to progress, the founders’ insights, thought processes, and expectations for the Peninsula will certainly become illuminated.



THE PALOS VERDES HOMES ASSOCIATION

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*“The details are not
the details, they
make the design.”*

—Charles Eames

PVHA ANNUAL MEETING

As determined by the Palos Verdes Homes Association Bylaws, the annual meeting of members is scheduled for the second Tuesday of January in Palos Verdes Estates City Council Chambers. The 93rd Annual Meeting will be held on **January 8, 2019 at 8 p.m.**

Please verify your name and address on this mailing and notify the PVHA office at 310-373-6721 with any corrections.

ABOUT US

The *Palos Verdes Bulletin* is a publication of the Palos Verdes Homes Association. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Closed to the public from 12-1 pm. The Manager and staff welcome the opportunity to meet and consult with members at no charge. Art Jury approval is required for all changes to the exterior of your property, including but not limited to painting, roofing, windows and doors, landscaping, hardscape, tree removal and site modifications prior to beginning any work including demo. Some items may be quickly approved over the counter, others may be seen in our weekly or bi-monthly Art Jury meetings. Additional information, applications and submittal guidelines can be found on PVHA.org. It may interest you to know that the PVHA archives contain approved plans dating back to the first projects and historical files including the protective deed restrictions on each property in Palos Verdes Estates and Miraleste. Please stop by and visit with us. We look forward to meeting you.

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