

Welcome!

Founding Board of Directors

Jude Aiello
Elizabeth
Clayton
Kris
Haglund
Gary
Kleiner
Betty Luce
Suzanne
Minear
Kevin
Molick
Carolyn
VanSciver
Elizabeth
Wheeler

Our Foundin g Member s

Cheryl Barry
Tom & Linda
Brunn
Doris Burd
Amy Carbone
Lucy Cook
Donna
Copeland
Cathy Crabtree
Chris and Ellen
Daehnick
Ray and Pat
Defa
Pamela Fischer
Stephan

May 2009 Edition

Denver's Old House Society is a new nonprofit dedicated to educating owners of old (50+ years) houses and helping them protect their neighborhoods.

Dear Old-House Lover,

The Old House Fair was a tremendous success!

Many people joined Denver's Old House Society as [Founding Members](#). In fact, so many did so that we met our founding members' challenge grant. Modern Bungalow owners Kate and Ed Sultan, along with our founder Elizabeth Wheeler, matched \$1,000 of memberships. Now, the Sultans and Elizabeth challenge others to come forward for future membership challenge grants. If you are interested, please contact us at information@denversoldhousesociety.org.

Lots of fun and educational events are planned for the coming days and months. We will be watching carefully the process for the adoption of Denver's new zoning code Blueprint Denver.

Volunteers are always welcome. [Volunteers](#) to help with databases and administrative projects are particularly needed.

Don't Water Your Bricks

Bricks at or near the foundation level are susceptible to water damage. Make sure the ground next to the house slopes away. Sprinklers are not friends of bricks. Make sure they do not "water" the bricks.

Evanoff
 Martha
 Foxhaven
 Garry Gordon
 Michael &
 Patricia Grace
 Gertie Grant
 Lynn Gregory
 S. Gregory
 Mona Goodwin
 Randy Hale
 Mary Hamilton
 Carla Huston
 Rob & Jennifer
 Jess
 MeriLou
 Johnson
 Steve Kite
 Mark & Leigh
 LaFon
 Julie Lee
 Jan & Joe
 Leone
 Sherry
 Liberato
 Kevin Loewen
 Beverly Longe
 Bonnie
 McCartney
 M. Masterson
 David Mathews
 Dan Milne
 Molly Parrish
 Jody Phillips
 Harry & Shirley
 Plummer
 Stan & Leslie
 Pollard
 Lilia Ponce
 Marilyn Quinn
 Mary Rae
 Catherine
 Rands
 Joyce Reitman
 Michael
 Ritchie
 Brian Shaw
 Barbara
 Sheldon
 Tom & Laurie
 Simmons
 Michelle Sturm
 Victoria
 Thomas
 Terry Tomsick

This Saturday Denver's Old House Society Presents a West Washington Park Neighborhood Guided Walking Tour - History and Architecture, Then and Now -- Two Additional Tours Scheduled

Spend part of a lovely Saturday afternoon, May 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on a guided walking tour in the lovely West Washington Park neighborhood that focuses on architecture and the history of one of Denver's most beloved parks. After the tour, enjoy light refreshments at a home in the tour area. To register for the event, contact Denver's Old House Society, Inc. at 303-916-4359 or [Tour](#) The cost is \$10 person.

Shortly after the city of Denver came into existence, developers started building homes in a rural area in Denver's first suburb South Denver, which is now the Washington Park neighborhood. The development sputtered after the silver bust in the early 1890s; but picked up pace after the creation of Washington Park in 1898. Most of the homes built between 1900 and 1940 were brick bungalows and were occupied by workers at the near by Gates Rubber plant and Samsonite Luggage manufacturing facility, both located nearby on South Broadway.

Designed by German landscape architect Reinhard Schuetze between 1898 and 1908, Washington Park remains fairly intact as he originally laid it out. It includes Smith and Grasmere lakes, and the Lily Pond, all fed with a city ditch, a large meadow and the "carriage-ways" that meander through the park. Schuetze dug up and transplanted many of the trees from the mountains.

Upcoming Tours

Saturday, June 13, Curtis Park neighborhood - near downtown

Saturday, October 10, Harkness Heights Bungalow Tour - northwest Denver

Prevent Brick Stains

Make sure gutters and downspouts are clean! If clogged, the polluted water may run off onto the bricks and discolor it - like wine or baby food staining clothes.

Turner
Ann Valentine
Judy & Paul
Vorndran
Barbara Yost
Amy Zimmer

Our
Sponsors

Oddles of Information Offered to Old House Owners at Old House Fair – Next Old House Fair Scheduled for September



Hundreds of people attended the May 2, 2009 Old House Fair. Over 30 exhibitors were available to answer questions about their products or services for old houses. Photo by Kevin Molick

The historic Highland Masonic Temple Event Center was brimming with old house lovers Saturday, May 2. The initial analysis of evaluation forms gathered from the 12 different workshops indicate a real appreciation and need for information about caring for an old house and making an old house even greener. The Old House Fair is a real confirmation of the mission of Denver's Old House Society's mission: To educate and protect old houses and neighborhoods through educational and advocacy efforts.

West Highlands resident Marc Cherveny was the lucky winner the

All About
Saving
Heat
Applewood
Plumbing,
Heating
and
Electric
Crabtree
Design
Nostalgic
Homes
Northwest
Denver
City
Council
District
No. One
Phoenix
Window
Restoration
Style 1900
Xcel
Energy
Van
Camp's
Quality
Floors.

Join Our Mailin

"Travel by Train" painting of renowned Denver artist [Randy Hale](#), who donated the framed art for the event. He also donated 50 magnets, depicting various Denver scenes, to the Society to be given to new founding members.

The next Old House Fair is scheduled for Saturday, September 12. It will be held in another historic building, which is now the gymnasium of the Stanley British Primary School, 350 Quebec, on the Lowry campus. Exhibitor and sponsorship information is available. [Old House Fair](#) A group of the Society's members are now planning workshops for the event.

Brick Grabbers - Clinging Vines

Vines on bricks are lovely; but, they can trap water and leave nasty little "grabbers." Consider tearing them off.

Blueprint Denver's "Nuts and Bolts" Updates This Week

The Zoning Update, the "nuts and bolts" of the 2002 City approved Blueprint Denver plan, will be presented this week at several public meetings throughout the city. There has been much discussion of this plan as it can affect the density and "style" of new buildings across all of Denver. A quieter unveiling of Greenprint Denver, recommendations for energy efficient, happened some time ago. Although last year the committee which has been working on how to implement Blueprint plan met with the Greenprint representatives to coordinate their plans, it seems there are some missing pieces which could have unintended consequences down the line, especially for owners of older homes.

Although many homeowners have complained of the shadows caused by nearby construction which is taller and wider than what was there before, Denver City Council and the city planning department have not addressed this concern, or made a commitment (like the city of Boulder) that an existing homeowner has "solar rights" as much as a developer has "property rights". After all, access to sunlight affects heating costs. For those who love their gardens as much as their older home, solar access determines what, if anything, can be planted.

Three massive units now occupy this lot on Julian Street in northwest Denver. Much taller and wider than the stately single-family home torn down last year, the multiplex definitely affects the solar access in the neighborhood.

After Blueprint Denver is approved by City Council, possibly as early as the end of this year, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to add a solar access ordinance. If this is a concern of yours, you can contact your City Council representatives (get them all in one fell swoop by emailing denvercc@denvergov.org.)

Want to See an Award Winning Kitchen Featured on HGTV?

Well, you can on Saturday, June 27 when Denver's Old House Society hosts a brunch at the Fischer Home in the West City Park Neighborhood! Our last brunch sold out, so get your tickets early. The cost is \$25 per person. [Brunch](#)

Kitchen, bath and interior designer Pam Fischer and her husband Wendell will be our hosts. Their kitchen was featured on the "Generation Renovation Show" on HGTV. Pam and her company [Design a la Carte](#) have won four "Restoration for Living Awards" from Historic Denver.

During the brunch, Pam will tell us about the restoration of her home.

Pamela is a founding member and her company is a founding sponsor of Denver's Old House Society. Her house and gardens are gorgeous. Mark your calendar and tell all of your friends and family members. It will be a real treat.

Thought You Would Like to Know --

"Enchanted Gardens of Northwest Denver," 9th annual garden tour, to benefit the Conflict Center, Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Tickets](#) or 303-433-4983.

Denver's Old House Society strives to leave a legacy of charming Denver neighborhoods of well-preserved old houses, sensitively maintained, jewels of the "Queen City of the Plains."

Sincerely,

Denver's Old House Society