



# Annual Conservancy social celebrates Redlands history

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Guests gather at the Redlands Conservancy's Annual Social and Membership Party on Saturday at the Graham-Cope Commercial Building. Attendees enjoyed foods, beverages, games, entertainment and silent auction shopping. (MICAH ESCAMILLA/For the Daily Facts)

REDLANDS - The Redlands Conservancy hosted its annual membership social Saturday night, celebrating the history of Redlands with food, games, and plenty of fun.

The theme for the evening's party focused on historic sites in Redlands, starting with the location. The event was once again held at the Graham-Cope Commercial Building.

The tables and walls featured images of some of Redlands' historic buildings, and the silent auction included original artwork of the area, as well as the opportunity to participate in an historical scavenger hunt. The silent auction also included vacations, gift baskets, jewelry and fruit trees. Most items were donated by conservancy

members.

Guests toured the Graham-Cope building before dinner, and watched a power point presentation by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It takes a lot to qualify for this," Conservancy Executive Director Sheri Leonard said. "It's a big deal."

The Graham-Cope Commercial Building was built in 1889 and was originally used for grain storage, said current owner Donn Grenda. Over the years the building has been used for storage, as a nursery, a fertilizer company, several moving companies, and even a skate park. Grenda and his wife purchased and restored the building in 2003. It now serves as the main office for Statistical Research, Inc., Grenda's archeology and historical architecture business.

"This is a significant place," Leonard said in a brief speech during dinner. It's unusual in Southern California to have buildings this old, and we are lucky to have so much history here in Redlands, she said.

"We're here to celebrate the history of Redlands and I have to thank everyone who contributed to

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tonight," she said. She also read the words of W. H. Pettibone's 1915 song, "Put me off at Redlands."

The Redlands Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Redlands' historic architecture and agriculture.

The evening's entertainment also included live music provided by local Redlands band "Sound Works," and Redlands Barbershop Quartet "In Achord", who performed last year in the Redlands Bowl production of the Music Man.

Several local caterers and restaurants came together to provide the food for the social, with salads and appetizers by The Matador Catering, dinner provided by Famous Dave's, and dessert by Theron's Frozen Custard.

Hangar 24 served wine and beer, and The Farm Artisan Foods provided cheese platters.

There were also gaming tables, a new feature for the social, said event chairwoman Anneli Pendley. Pendley is also a local artist and teacher, and several of her paintings were featured in the auction.

Guests were given vouchers for tickets and game chips to play Blackjack and Texas Hold-em for prizes. There was also a "Red Canopoly" lottery pull. Each pull was one dollar, and winners received gift bags with hand-made and donated items such as cards, posters, movies, and shirts.

"When they win we ring the bell, and that's the best part," said conservancy member Krista Ott.

Conservancy member Mara Comadena assembled all the gift bags, and she made an effort to see that everyone got something they liked.

"A little boy came up earlier, so I was looking for a kid-friendly bag. And I found the conservancy hat, the sun hat, so it was perfect," she said.



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