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November 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,

With our thoughts turning to "home" each holiday season, now is the time to reflect on the impact Denver's Old House Society has had in protecting and maintaining our old homes and neighborhoods throughout the "Queen City of the Plains."

We are so thankful this November that over 1200 people have attended our Old House Fairs, Saturday Morning Workshops, guided walking tours, and meals in old houses. Countless people have used the valuable **free** information in our reference and referral section of our Web site, www.DenversOldHouseSociety.org, [Free Help](#)

We are also grateful of the relationship we have with numerous neighborhood associations and the support we have been able to give them by contacting members of Denver's City Council asking for support of down zoning in these neighborhoods and the implementation of BluePrint Denver.

Your continued financial support for our efforts to educate owners of Denver's old houses and help them protect Denver's beloved old neighborhoods will assure that our homes and

ers

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- Mary Hamilton
- Harkness
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- Alanna Herrera
- Joan Holmes
- Susan & Bob Homiak
- Barbara & Michael Homs
- Carla Huston

neighborhoods of so many holiday memories will still be there in 2010 and beyond. Compared to other great cities, Denver has few old houses and neighborhoods. We need to safeguard with education and advocacy efforts those that we do have. Please donate today.

Remember, look for us on Facebook, and become a Fan of the Denver's Old House Society page.

Don't forget our "Favorite Old-House Award." Nominate your's today. You and the homeowners could be honored at our annual awards dinner, January 21. [Favorite Old House](#) The deadline for nominations is December 31.

Electricity - How Times Have Changed Since Grandma Got Her Radio in 1940!

"A Tuna Christmas" -- Tickle Your Funny Bone With Some Down Home Festivities - Saturday, December 5



The Victorian Playhouse in the Summertime
by Suzanne Minear

Photo

Denver's Old House Society hosts Saturday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. a special showing of "A Tuna Christmas" at the Denver Victorian Playhouse, 4201 Hooker Street.

Rob &
Jennifer Jess
Michael Johns
MeriLou
Johnson
Steve Kite
Mark & Leigh
LaFon
Julie Lee
Jan & Joe
Leone
Chris Lesser
Sherry
Liberato
Kevin Loewen
Beverly Longe
Bonnie
McCartney
Alan Martin
M. Masterson
David Mathew
s
Dan Milne
Molly Parrish
Jody Phillips
Harry &
Shirley
Plummer
Stan & Leslie
Pollard
Lilia Ponce
Marilyn
Quinn
Mary Rae
Catherine
Rands
Joyce
Reitman
Michael
Ritchie
Mike Shannon
Brian Shaw
Janet Shaw
Barbara
Sheldon
Tom & Jackie
Short
Tom & Laurie
Simmons
Nancy
Stewart
Michelle
Sturm
Victoria
Thomas
Terry
Tomsick
Jessie
Tramutolo
Millicent
Turner
Victoria Vans
Ann Valentine
Judy & Paul
Vorndran
Claire Walter
Doug Walter
Mark Wessley
Bill West
Will White
Barbara
Wright
Barbara Yost

"A Tuna Christmas" actors Austin Terrell and Seth Miasel and producer Wade P. Wood specialize in having audiences roll out of their seats with laughter. Held in the historic Denver Victorian Playhouse Theater, [Theater](#), originally built in the basement of a 1911 northwest Denver home, the play is bound to relieve holiday stress with uninhibited humor. Savory refreshments will be served during intermission. After the show, the audience can tour this unique home and go back stage to visit with the actors. The ticket price is \$30 and can be purchased by calling 303-916-4359 or going on line at [tickets](#)

Original owner George Schultz, who suffered from tuberculosis, designed his home to host staged productions in its basement. He was told that if he practiced his breathing while reciting Shakespeare his illness would be cured. His illness was arrested and he became a Shakespearean actor. His wife and daughters made the costumes for his productions. In fact, between 1911 and 1931 over 800 plays were given. All of Shakespeare's plays have been presented at this community theater, which is still active today.

Dishwashers, garbage disposals, microwave ovens, blenders, food processors, electric tooth brushes, electric blankets, CD players, DVDs, electric dryers, televisions, air conditioning, electric drills, electric screw drivers, and computers, common appliances of today, but unheard of 69 years ago. If your house was built before 1940, your life could be seriously curtailed by lack of electrical power! Oh, dear!!!

Give the Perfect Holiday Gift - A Denver Old House - Really, You Can!

Amy Zimmer

Join Our Mailin

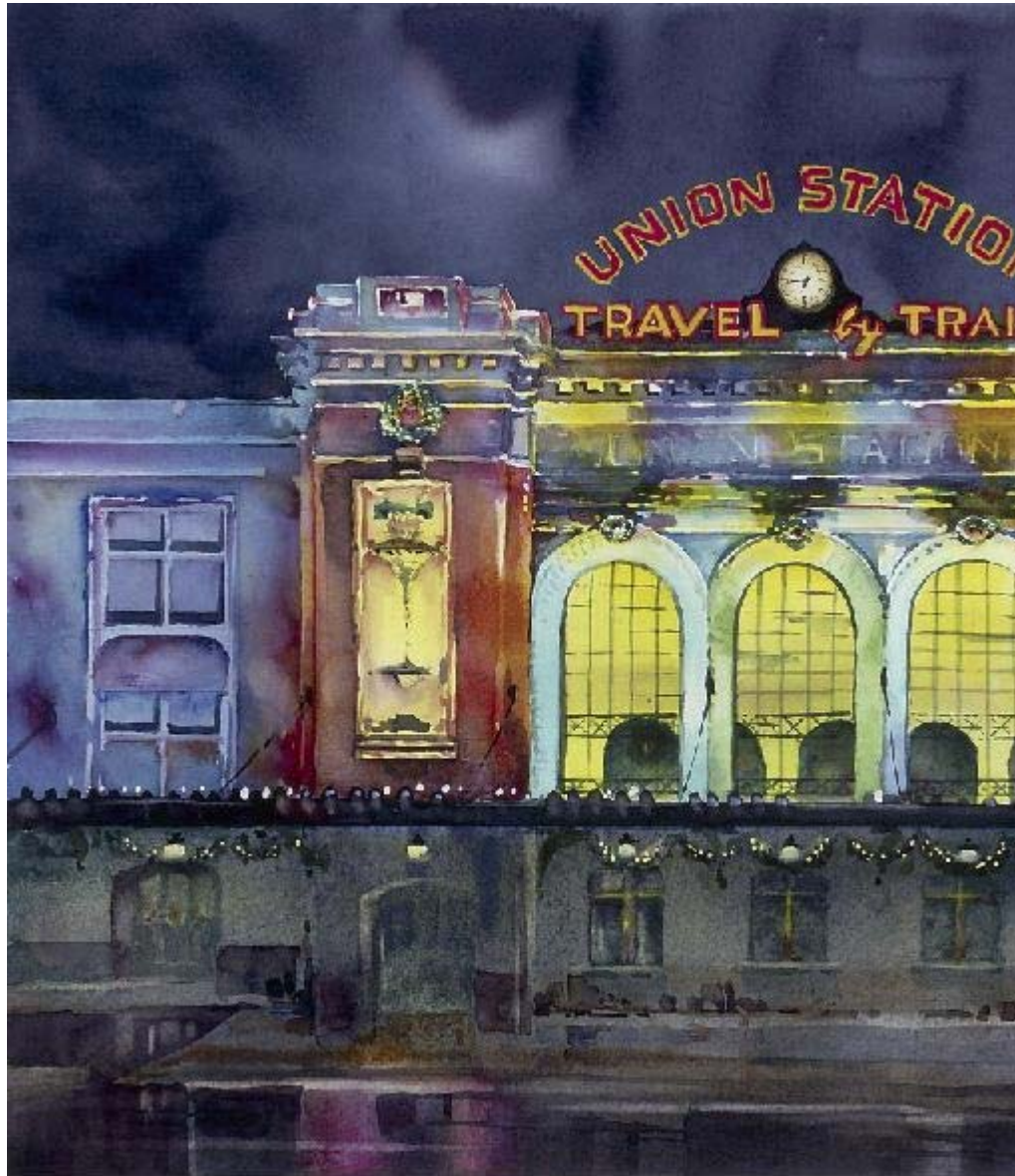


Two small holiday houses with membership certificates inside sit on a mantel. A larger one is in the dining room full of holiday cookies.

Hand-painted, signed and numbered, our Denver old houses come in two sizes with a choice of gifts inside: Our small house, approximately 6 inches tall, comes with a genuine Denver Old House Society Founding Member certificate of any level, and our big house, approximately 10 inches high, is packed full of holiday sugar cookies made by elves! The small house's suggested donation is \$5 plus the cost of a membership. The big house's suggested donation is \$20. The houses will be available for pick up starting Saturday, November 28, at two convenient locations: Modern Bungalow at Yale and Colorado Boulevard and Nostalgic Homes Real Estate, 3737 W. 32nd Avenue. Order now until November 14 [holiday houses](#)

Prior to 1940, most homes only needed enough electricity to light the house and operate a radio and maybe a refrigerator. Most homes were equipped with 15 or 30 amperes and "new" ones with 40- and 60- amp service (remember, many homes then sported electric waffle irons!) By the 1950's most new homes had 150-200 ampere service (amount of electricity flowing.)

Randy Hale's Holiday Cards with Historic Scenes of Denver



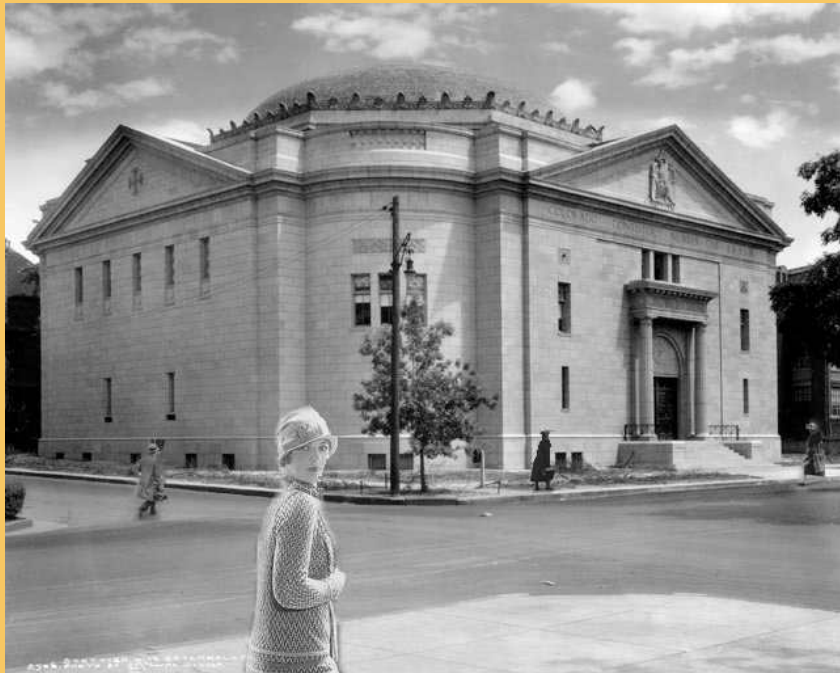
"Holiday Lights"
Watercolor by Randy Hale

Denverite Randy Hale's paintings can be found in both private and corporate collections worldwide, [Randy Hale](#). For Denver's Old House Society, he is offering a collection of holiday greeting cards of three of his watercolor paintings of Civic Center, Union Station and

the Daniels Fisher Tower. The box of nine contains three cards of each painting and sells for \$16. Hale lives and works in a 124 year old Denver Queen Ann Victorian. As a watercolorist, he sets out to capture the emotional connection to our past. To order cards, go to [order cards](#). You may recall that Randy donated one of his wonderful paintings for a drawing at our spring Old House Fair.

You can go to the bother of calculating how much electrical service you need. You multiply amps X volts (pressure) to get watts for everything in your house. Then, you add all the watts up. (A watt is the amount of power available in a circuit.) The National Electrical Code Handbook details several methods of doing this. Much easier, is to assume you need or will soon need 200 ampere service.

Awards Reception, Dinner, Silent Auction, Building Tour - January 21



Artist

rendition of the Consistory about 50 years ago

Thursday, January 21, we will present these awards to more deserving people along with the owner and nominee of the house selected for "the Favorite Old House Award" at the historic Consistory, 1370 Grant Street. On our Web site, "Early-bird" tickets are on sale now for \$60 until December 31.

To a sold-out crowd, last January we honored five people who truly made a difference for Denver's old houses and neighborhoods: Jude Aiello, Ray Defa and Steve Kite were given the "Astonishing

Neighborhood Protector Award" for spearheading the "Right Zone Change" in Northwest Denver; Carolyn Van Sciver received the "Exceptional Old-House Educator Award" for organizing and managing the Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers Series; and Mary Rae was honored with the "Grand Old-House Lover Award" because she began Denver's love affair with old houses and prevented the wrecking ball from destroying many of them.

Thought You Would Like To Know

Blueprint Denver - Draft 3 Code Map - Listening Sessions -

New Denver Zoning Code Draft 3 is now posted [Map](#)

Listening Sessions -

Wednesday, November 18 - 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 19 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Joint session of Denver City Council, Planning Board, and the Zoning Code Task Force, designed to hear citizen comments and questions before the final draft, anticipated for December 22, and formal hearings, expected January and February, 2010.

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