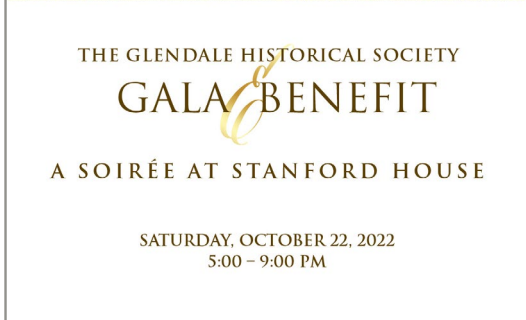




THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE

FALL 2022



Stafford House

PHOTO: Nadine Barsoumian DESIGN: Matthew Letcher

TGHS GALA & BENEFIT IS BACK!

You are cordially invited to The Glendale Historical Society's Gala & Benefit on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. This year's celebratory and fundraising event will be held alfresco at Stanford House, a spectacular 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival designed by noted architect Earl C. Rahn. Those who attended the 40th Anniversary Gala & Benefit in 2019 will remember this glorious venue. Stanford House is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and is located in the recently designated South Cumberland Heights Historic District.

Come for some long-overdue camaraderie, wine and cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction, which will be held both live and online. Proceeds benefit TGHS's Endowment and Preservation funds.

TGHS will present its annual awards in recognition of outstanding achievement in historic preservation to those involved in the formation of the Casa Verdugo and South Cumberland Heights Historic Districts. TGHS is also pleased to bestow the Marie Luft Award for Excellence in Stewardship of the Doctors House to Isabelle Meyer and the Zelia Blanton Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to Greg Grammer and to Marcia Hanford.

Tickets are available for TGHS members at \$140 and for nonmembers at \$175. They can be purchased online at <https://glendalehistorical.org/gala-benefit-2022> or by mailing a check to TGHS, PO Box 4173, Glendale CA 91202.

Thanks to this year's Gala & Benefit sponsors: Forest Lawn, The Walt Disney Company, G&C Properties, Glendale Federal Credit Union and Supervisor Kathryn Barger. See you at the Gala!

"We Were Americans": A Dark History Brought to Life in Film

Longtime Glendale resident Glenn Yamada was born in an internment camp during World War II. His family was among many other Japanese Americans who had been forced out of their homes and livelihoods by Executive Order 9066, issued a few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Glenn's parents, Ted and Fusaye Yamada, and his older brother, Gene, were sent to the Colorado River Relocation Center near Poston, Arizona. Glenn was born there in 1943 and was eighteen months old when the Yamadas returned to their farming community east of Fresno.

Glenn attended Fresno State College, where he met a fellow student, Katherine Peters. They married in 1965 and moved to Los Angeles, where Glenn was employed by Price Waterhouse. They moved to Glendale in 1979.

TGHS Board member Katherine Yamada, who authored the Glendale News-Press column "Verdugo Views" for many years, learned of their internment while compiling a family history for her mother-in-law.

In 2018, the couple visited Poston with Ara Oshagan, curator of ReflectSpace at Glendale Central Library, and filmmaker Avo Kambourian. The resulting documentary, "We Were Americans," told the compelling story of the Yamadas before, during and after internment. Oshagan commissioned the work; Kambourian directed, produced and edited it.

TGHS presented the film on May 19, 2022, with the filmmakers and the Yamadas in a virtual panel discussion following the screening. As Glenn Yamada poignantly remarked in expressing his gratitude to the filmmakers, it "brought a dark history to life." TGHS is also grateful to all the participants in this digital event, which allowed viewers to bear witness to a grave injustice and to share in the Yamada family's extraordinary and uplifting triumph over adversity.



Glenn Yamada and his mother
PHOTO: Courtesy of the Yamada Family

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Incoming President John Schwab-Sims presents a thank-you basket of goodies to Outgoing President Steve Hunt

This page has always been headed “President’s Message,” its content coming *from* the President in his personal voice. This time, however, the message is *for* the Immediate Past President, Steve Hunt, from everyone at TGHS: a message of deep appreciation.

Thanks to Shelley Filain, whom he met several years ago while volunteering at Glendale Memorial Hospital, Steve became a TGHS member, Doctors House docent and Board Member in rapid succession, assuming the Presidency in 2018.

Immediately taking charge during TGHS’s 40th anniversary year, Steve presided over an unprecedented number and variety of activities – 26 successful events in one year! When membership surpassed 1,000, Steve reported that the big challenge will be “finding venues large enough to accommodate TGHS’s major events.”

Little did anyone imagine that a novel virus would soon render that concern irrelevant. All activities shifted to a virtual format; Steve found new sponsors for them. Zoom became TGHS’s strongest ally in preservation, as the Board kept in touch with each other, with membership and with City Council through electronic meetings. Preservation successes during this time included revision of the City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance, an ADU ordinance, TGHS’s first lawsuit, the formation of new historic districts, the addition of several properties to the Glendale Register and much more.

These accomplishments were extraordinary, especially

given the circumstances: a global pandemic that affected virtually all institutions worldwide and caused the demise of many a nonprofit. Steve led TGHS through this difficult period unscathed, financially and otherwise, thanks to his unwavering commitment and his ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Appropriately enough, TGHS’s first in-person event was the opening of the exhibit on women entrepreneurs, “Breaking Barriers,” at Steve’s beloved Doctors House. The next was the Annual Meeting on July 16, when Steve modestly deferred all credit from himself to “the great group of people I work with.”

He thanked the Board and Doctors House staff for their dedication; Greg Grammer, Sean Bersell and Marcia Hanford for their leadership; Cathy Jurca, Francesca Smith, John Schwab-Sims and Andy Allison for preservation efforts and triumphs; Robert Gordon, Derek Catao and Hilary Sbei for technological help with membership software; Joemy Wilson and Matthew Letcher for editing and designing the quarterly newsletter; Katherine Yamada for her new Glendale history column; and Jon Crook, Cathy Grayson, Hilary Sbei and David Eisenberg for digital events. He singled out Cathy Grayson for special praise: “making TGHS a better organization” with her creation of the Membership Outreach/Inclusion Committee.

Mr. President, all of those individuals and many more are grateful to *you* for your leadership during a challenging time. You will be sorely missed.

THE
GLENDALE
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT
 John Schwab-Sims

VICE PRESIDENT, PRESERVATION ADVOCACY
 John Schwab-Sims

VICE PRESIDENT, OUTREACH
 Ani Mnatsakanyan

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP
 Hilary Sbei

SECRETARY
 Nancy Oshima

TREASURER
 Kathryn Engel

DIRECTORS AT LARGE
 Jon Crook
 Renée Leask
 David Meunier
 Maria Sahakian
 Erik Van Breene
 Katherine Peters Yamada

DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR
 Laura Crook

DOCTORS HOUSE CURATOR
 Peter Rusch

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT, GRAPHIC DESIGN
 Matthew Letcher

GRAPHIC DESIGN
 Scott Lasken

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Past Executive Director
 Sean Bersell

Past Presidents
 Zelia Blanton*
 Deborah Dentler
 Carole Dougherty
 Greg Grammer
 Andrea Humberger
 Steve Hunt
 John LoCascio
 Marie Luft

*Robert Newcomb**
 Steve Preston
 Bill Shepherd
 David Smith
 Arlene Vidor

**Deceased*

TGHS Welcomes New Board Members



Nancy Oshima

Nancy Oshima and husband David bought and restored a 1924 Spanish-style fixer near Kenneth Village 20 years ago. They recently relocated to Rossmoyne Hills and have enjoyed researching the original owners of their current 1932 Spanish home. Oshima worked as a financial administrator for a nonprofit and also serves on the board of Labor Community Services, a nonprofit partnership with United Way.

Maria Sahakian, a lifelong Glendale resident, is Chief Operating Officer at Glendale Arts, where she managed the Alex Theatre's rental programming for many years, elevating the historic landmark into a highly sought-after venue for all manner of productions. A member of the board of the Glendale Education Foundation, she has received GEF's Diamond Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts.



Maria Sahakian



Erik Van Breene

Erik Van Breene is a third-generation Angeleno and has recently received his Master's degree in Heritage Conservation from USC. His thesis, on L.A. County's Armenian community, is the first examination of this population through a historic preservation lens. Van Breene currently serves as Preservation Coordinator in the Advocacy department of the Los Angeles Conservancy.

Council Approves Skyscraper at 620 N. Brand

In June, the City Council approved the addition of a 24-story apartment building on the same lot as the historic Home Savings & Loan Building (now Chase Bank) at 620 N. Brand. The vote was 4-0, with Mayor Ardy Kassakhian absent. In approving the project, Council ignored the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission, which voted 3-1 that it adversely impacted the significance of the historic resource.

TGHS had several concerns about the project, including demolition of the complementary, character-defining parking garage, which was designed by the same architect as the main office building and contributed to the property's historically significant relationship to car and freeway culture. In addition, TGHS objected to the overpowering size and scale of the new project in relation to the historic six-story Home Savings Building. TGHS argued that the City must consider the garage part of the historic resource and that new construction should be more appropriately scaled to the historic office building to avoid substantial adverse impacts to it.

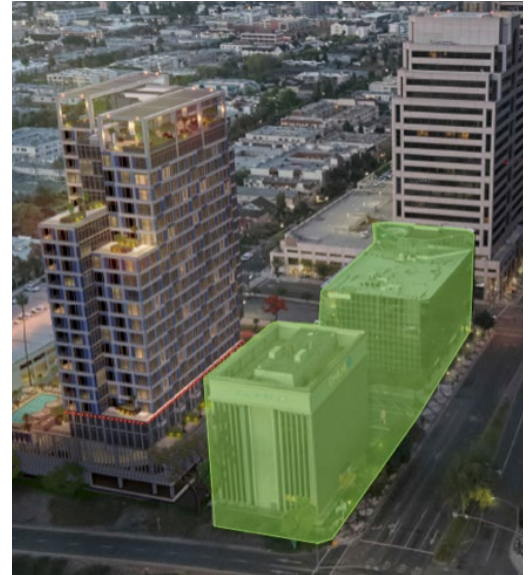
Also troubling was the environmental review document prepared by staff and certified by the City. Because this project is exactly one-half mile from the intersection of two bus lines with service every 15 minutes during peak commute hours, the City opted to prepare a Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment (SCEA) rather than an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The SCEA is supposed to make environmental review easier for projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions; however, the project at 620 N. Brand has *more parking than the Code requires*, highlighting the developer's lack of interest in sustainability. Unlike with an EIR, courts show deference to the City in their analysis and decisions in the SCEA process, and project alternatives do not have to be considered, even though a smaller residential project was eminently feasible.

Also, under state law SCEAs are only supposed to be used for projects that will “not have a significant effect on historic resources.” TGHS argued that an EIR was therefore required, but Council sided with staff, who insisted

that destroying the historic setting and the matching parking garage and constructing a 24-story building would not impact the historic resource.

The developer's consultant found the property to be eligible for the National and California registers as well as the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. TGHS argued, based on expert testimony from qualified architectural historian Francesca Smith, that the property would not be eligible for state or federal designation if the proposed project were built. One condition of approval is that the property—with the project plans—be submitted within six months to the National Register of Historic Places. Concerned Glendale residents will soon know if the city has lost a historic resource in addition to gaining new housing.

TGHS will continue to advocate for following appropriate environmental review on critical projects.



Rendering of project at 620 N. Brand



Francesca Smith Gets Shout-Out for Service to Preservation

The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission celebrated its 60th anniversary on August 4. At a public meeting in honor of the occasion, Ken Bernstein, who oversees the Office of Historic Resources for Los Angeles, recognized Francesca Smith as “a longtime leader in historic preservation in our city, Glendale, as well as many others.”

It is gratifying to see Smith acknowledged for her accomplishments within the field. Cheers to Los Angeles for their prescient historic preservation ordinance and dedicated commissioners.

Francesca Smith

PRESERVATION



Charming Monterey Colonial in the proposed *Selvas de Verdugo* Historic District

Historic District Updates

TGHS is pleased to announce movement on two pending Glendale historic districts!

The Historic Survey has begun in earnest for Bellehurst. It will include the 306 homes within the district's boundaries and a more general review of the broader Bellehurst neighborhood.

The entire survey process is expected to be completed by early 2023. The City and the Historic Preservation Commission will then review it; the second petition will be circulated shortly thereafter.

In May, an application was submitted for a new historic district called *Selvas de Verdugo*, the original name of a subsection of the neighborhood now known as the Verdugo Woodlands.

If approved, it would be Glendale's largest historic district at around 800 homes. It would also include the existing Niodrara Drive Historic District.

TGHS strongly supports historic district designation and has contributed \$1,000 toward the application fee for this new effort. Unfortunately, review of the *Selvas de Verdugo* application is on hold. In January 2021, City Council directed staff to revise the historic district approval process, in part to avoid the delays that have plagued recent applicants. A year and a half later, the revision is not yet done. TGHS will continue to pressure the City to prioritize the creation of historic districts.

Landmark This! Workshop at Brand Library

On June 4, TGHS held a Glendale Register/Mills Act workshop at the Brand Library Recital Hall. More than forty participants attended the successful and engaging presentation.

John Schwab-Sims, Vice President of Preservation for TGHS, introduced City of Glendale Historic Preservation Commission members Chris Cragnotti and Lorna Vartanian, who provided an overview of the process to apply for Glendale Register designation and a Mills Act contract. Key topics included the importance of such a register of historic properties; how to determine the eligibility of one's property;

details on the listing process; and benefits of listing, including Mills Act tax advantages.

Stephen Schurman, whose home in the pending Bellehurst Historic District was just awarded Glendale Register/Mills Act designation, discussed his experience with the process, urging potential applicants to "be careful to preserve the architectural integrity of the house" by first "speaking with knowledgeable persons before making major changes."

The Glendale Register of Historic Resources was created in 1997 to help preserve Glendale's historic

properties. Owners of properties listed on the Register can then take advantage of the Mills Act, under which they qualify for a significant tax reduction in exchange for a commitment to maintaining the property at the highest level of preservation. If you have any questions on either of these programs, please send an email to preservation@glendalehistorical.org

TGHS thanks the Historic Preservation Commission and Glendale Library, Arts and Culture for their co-sponsorship of this event.

ANNUAL MEETING

TGHS'S Annual Meeting Goes Live Once Again!

On July 16, from a podium in the Doctors House gazebo, Outgoing President Steve Hunt welcomed several dozen TGHS members to the first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019.

After thanking the Board, the Digital Events Committee and Patron members for their exceptional support during the past three years, Hunt presented belated 2020 volunteer award certificates to David Eisenberg, Cathy Grayson and Laura Crook as well as a 2020 President's Award to Cathy Jurca. He then recognized 2022 volunteer awardee Nadine Barsoumian for her preservation work.



Vice President for Preservation Advocacy John Schwab-Sims reported on TGHS's successful preservation efforts and outreach, and announced a revival of the popular historic district walking tours. Treasurer Kathryn Engel thanked members and sponsors for keeping the organization fiscally sound during a period without the usual fundraising events. Hilary Sbei, Vice President for Membership, noted that TGHS now has an impressive 1,560 members.

Hunt recognized outgoing directors Cathy Grayson, Mary Kay Prather, Kathryn Brunet and Darren Merritt. Sbei then presented the candidates for the upcoming fiscal year, who were duly elected: Kathryn Engel, Ani Mnatsakanyan, Nancy Oshima, Maria Sahakian, Erik Van Breene and Katherine Peters Yamada.

After a report on the Doctors House documentary from Russell Harnden III and the exhibit on Glendale women entrepreneurs from Curator Peter Rusch, Hunt then announced that he was stepping down as President, saluting those he had worked with for their "amazing dedication and talent."

Many thanks to Kathryn Engel and her crew (Sam Engel, Nancy Oshima and Taleen Barsoumian) for the delicious buffet of breakfast burritos, yogurt, fruit and pastries. Sponsor Forest Lawn provided the magnificent sunflower centerpieces and bouquets.



Nadine Barsoumian (center) with parents Vache and Annie Barsoumian (left) and Cathy Grayson and Steve Hunt (right)

Nadine Barsoumian Receives 2022 Volunteer Award

As reported in the Spring 2022 issue of this newsletter, Nadine Barsoumian provided an invaluable service to TGHS by scanning and backing up an extensive collection of slides from the 1980s that documented the restoration and reconstruction of the Doctors House. In presenting her with the Volunteer Award, Steve Hunt said, "This history will now be preserved forever."

Congratulations to Nadine Barsoumian for this richly deserved award!

WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS MAY - JULY 2022

SAN RAFAEL PATRON
Rima & Donnell Cameron

GRAND CENTRAL PATRON
Arlene Vidor

JEWEL CITY PATRON
Faline England & David Meunier
Corinne Sánchez & Efren Manjarrez

VERDUGO PATRON
Cathy & Jon Grayson
Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch
Anita & Russell Harnden
Jessica & Christian Lander
Maureen & Mario Palladini
Chris & Steve Warheit

TROPICO
Nancy & Michael Bain
Brenda Berg & Armando Gonzalez
Dorothy Black
Judy & Dan Cabrera - U
Frances & Jose Chavez
Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen
Reid Dammann
Houry & Vigen Ghazarian
Joan Hardie
Matthew Letcher & Kevin Phan
Patricia Messina & Terrance Hines
John Schuning

Kelly Tyler & Kenneth Simon
Susan Wolfson - U

HOUSEHOLD
Valerie & Colin Campbell
Diana Cholakian Pearre
Nadia & Robert DeWees
Zuzka & Peter Eggena
Kyle Grimes
Domenico Ingenito &
Victor Mazzone
Karen Leal & David Eldan
Bruce Matsen & Ronald Wing
Mickey & Michael Murphy
Jane Sheldon & Josh Grayson
Christopher Smee - N
Sean Waugaman
Julie & Stephen Webber
Sharon & William Weisman

INDIVIDUAL
Janet Armistead - N
Ute Baum
Kasey Conley
Amy Davis
Wendy Gish
Annelise Holyoak - N
Shelby Jiggetts-Tivony
Joanna Linkchorst
Gary Perlberg

Adryan Russ
Raymond Shinn
Roberta Stone
Vick Touzjian

NONPROFIT
Joanna Linkchorst,
Friends of Rockhaven

SENIOR
Jennifer Allcroft
Davidia Barba
Joe Barba
Jennifer Berry
George Budd
Stephanie Chong - N
Gerda D'Nino
Brian Frobisher
Armenoush Hairapetian - N
Kay Hostetler
Bernadette Hovland
Larry Hovland
Harriett Kahan
Roseanne Kalaba
Jarita Kirkwood
Laura Lovick
Richard Lovick
Anne McDonald
Nancy Oshima
Paula Sigman-Lowery

Jo Anne Sitjar
Warren Thomas
Carolyn West
Amy Yazzetta
Lisa Yesko
Sarah Yesko

STUDENT
Chloe Cuffel
Celestine Davidson
Erik Van Breene - N

*TGHS also welcomes 200
special new members
through the Glendale
Federal Credit Union!*

N - New Member
U - Upgrading Member

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

THANK YOU, CORPORATE/BUSINESS SPONSORS!

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SILVER SPONSOR
G&C Properties

BRONZE SPONSOR
Glendale Federal Credit Union
The Los Angeles Breakfast Club
The Walt Disney Company

THANK YOU, PATRON MEMBERS!

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Cathy & Jon Grayson
Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch
Anita & Russell Harnden
Nancy Hathaway (The Wine Vault)
Edna Karinski
(Community Foundation of the Verdugos)
Jessica & Christian Lander
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk
Stacey & Darren Merritt
Coleen Novak
Maureen & Mario Palladini
Devonna & Aaron Reichert
Gloria & Jerome Sander
Scott Smissen & Don Snyder
Francesca & Lee Smith
Chris & Steve Warheit
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson
Kendyl Young
Gabriella Zecchetto & Blake Mills

EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, September 24, 6:00 pm
DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE SCREENING
Discovering Glendale's Doctors House
Brand Park, Doctors House Lawn

Tickets at [https://glendalehistorical.org/
doctors-house-documentary](https://glendalehistorical.org/doctors-house-documentary)

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

Saturday, October 22, 5:00-9:00 pm
GALA & BENEFIT
Stanford House

Live and online auction

Tickets at
<https://glendalehistorical.org/gala-benefit-2022>

\$140 members, \$175 non-members

On view through November 2022
Sundays 2:00-4:00 pm
**"BREAKING BARRIERS:
GLENDALE'S
PIONEERING WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS"**
Doctors House Museum

Dorothy Thorpe's elegant glassware adorns
the Doctors House dining-room table



On TGHS's website:
"STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PART IV"

An ongoing history series by Katherine Peters Yamada. Read
about real estate speculators, saloons, the temperance
movement and more in Glendale during the 1880s and 1890s
at <https://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing-4>

If you missed any of TGHS's great events, you can access the archived videos at glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events



To get the most up-to-date information on TGHS's events and preservation alerts, check out
facebook.com/GlendaleHistoricalSociety AND instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety