



Paul Revere Williams (1894-1980), Master Architect

He wouldn't have been allowed to live in any of the grand houses he designed. He perfected the skill of drawing his architectural plans upside down from across the table, lest he offend his white clients by sitting beside them. Despite all obstacles, Paul R. Williams reached the pinnacle of his profession, becoming the first African American member of the American Institute of Architects and designing more than 3,000 projects in Southern California during an extraordinary career spanning nearly six decades.

On April 15, historian and biographer Stephen Gee discussed the life and work of this "master of creative eclecticism, a real innovator," for TGHS. Gee traced the evolution of Williams' signature style, which was marked by elegant details such as sweeping staircases and oval entryways, and often involved a re-interpretation of complex historical forms such as Spanish Colonial and English Tudor Revival. The comprehensive survey of Williams' projects included four magnificent homes that are fortunately still extant in Glendale.



Paul Williams' 1925 Schlosser House, in Glendale's Adams Hill neighborhood

BLACK RESIDENTS IN GLENDALE: PAST AND PRESENT



Arlene Vidor



Tara Peterson



Marie Y. Lemelle



Shelby Jiggetts-Tivony

TGHS respects and strives to preserve Glendale's historic buildings, but also is concerned with the residents of those buildings, past and present.

On February 25, four women shared various aspects of the history of Black residents in Glendale to assist us all in understanding how racism persists and why the City of Glendale's adoption of a resolution acknowledging its racially exclusionary past as a "sundown town" was so important in making progress toward a more diverse, equitable city.

Arlene Vidor, City of Glendale Arts and Culture Commissioner and former TGHS President, discussed the past racist climate in Glendale and the impact of sundown practices on people of color, illustrating her talk with historic photographs and newspaper clippings.

Tara Peterson, CEO of The Glendale/Pasadena YWCA, led a lively panel discussion as Black in Glendale members Marie Lemelle and Shelby Jiggetts-Tivony shared their experiences as long-term residents in a community where

they continue to be part of a minority of less than 2 percent.

Jiggetts-Tivony, a Vice President at Disney Live Entertainment, says she "is always on a plane" for her global job but must help her daughter navigate challenges at school as she and other young people work to create the change they want to see. Lemelle, CEO and Founder of Platinum Star Public Relations, is the second African American woman Commissioner on the City of Glendale's Commission on the Status of Women and enjoys giving back despite many struggles.

Both women would like to see some place names changed, some Realtors made more aware of racism, and incentives offered to encourage the establishment of more Black businesses in Glendale, and thanked TGHS for opening this conversation.

As many Zoom participants felt the discussion was all too brief, TGHS hopes to continue the candid exchange with a live follow-up event when gatherings can resume.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

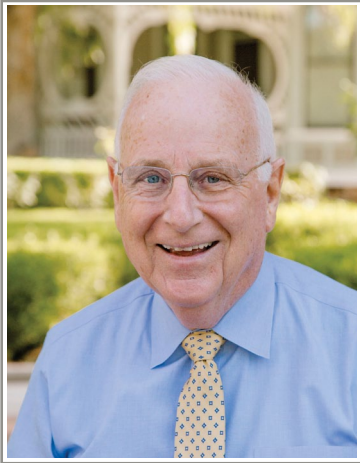


PHOTO: Irmina Hamilton

There is a light at the end of this long pandemic tunnel.

Appropriately enough, TGHS's first lights may glow at the Doctors House and Gazebo in December, when we hope to resume our annual Candlelight tours. Laura Crook and Peter Rusch, Doctors House Director and Curator, respectively, are reviewing the many details and decisions to be made.

CDC health protocols and City guidelines will be a part of this process. Your Board of Directors will decide if it is safe to move forward with this event.

Our Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for July 17 and will be held remotely, via Zoom. As always, we will hold the election of new Board members and present volunteer awards and recognition of outgoing and incoming Board members. The annual "State of TGHS" message will include some excellent news and updates that you won't want to miss. Planning for the Annual Meeting is in the expert hands of Kathryn Engel and Marcia Hanford, so you know that this event will be both informative and entertaining.

Our Digital Events Committee continues to keep our members interested and engaged. We are pleased to inform you that TGHS has as many members now as at the beginning of the pandemic. With income from new and renewing members and sponsorships, our special 2020-2021 pandemic-related budget is on track.

Thanks to our new Membership and Outreach Inclusion Committee (MOIC), The Glendale Historical Society is taking steps to reach out and include young families, students, ethnic groups and minorities in our efforts to celebrate and preserve Glendale's history and architectural heritage for today and for future generations. In addition, we have just partnered with the Glendale Federal Credit Union in an exciting membership initiative, which you can read about on Page 6.

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TGHS's preservation efforts remain as strong today as they were prior to the pandemic. We continue our negotiations with the City on how best to preserve the history of the L. W. Grayson Steam Electric Generating Station. As usual, other critical preservation issues are highlighted in this newsletter.

Stay safe and well. Our 2021-2022 fiscal year, starting on August 1, looks ready to begin with a light at the end of the tunnel and to end up with a bright light shining on all of us.

Regards,

Steve Hunt

Six-Story Building Planned for Historic Property at 126 - 132 S. Kenwood

In 2016, TGHS successfully mobilized the community and persuaded City Council that the Clifford Cole property at 132 S. Kenwood, which included a Craftsman home, was a historic resource for its association with its eponymous longtime Glendale religious leader and *News-Press* columnist. Council rejected a project that would demolish it along with an adjacent Craftsman (found not to be historic, despite ample evidence to the contrary) to make way for a five-story, multi-family building.

Just last month, the City received plans for a project that would preserve the one-story Cole Craftsman but would construct a six-story building on the same lot and the one adjacent.

TGHS will continue to provide updates about this project, in hopes that members will write and speak at any public hearings to object if it appears that the project will impact the historic resource and diminish South Glendale's historic residential landscape even further.

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Architects of Glendale: Paul Lawton Burkhard, Jr. (1920-2013)



Burkhard House, GR #98

*This profile is the first in an occasional series
on prominent Glendale architects.*

Equally proficient in commercial and residential design, architect Paul Burkhard was also an active civic leader, making significant contributions to Glendale's history and landscape through his buildings, family connections and service to the community. He developed a specialty niche in planning model homes for residential subdivisions. The Oakridge House, a furnished model home he designed for one such community in Glendale, was advertised in the *Los Angeles Times* as "an adventure in true California contemporary living."

Originally from Ohio, Burkhard graduated from Glendale College in 1939, continuing his studies at the USC School of Architecture. After serving in World War II as a site engineer for the 14th Naval District at Pearl Harbor, he established his own design firm in Glendale, located in the same building as his father's general contracting firm. Father and son enjoyed a close professional relationship; Burkhard Jr. designed his parents' 1948 two-story home at 1471 Royal Boulevard (GR #98), which the senior Burkhard constructed.

Among Burkhard's residential commissions are a number of modern single-family homes in Glendale and surrounding communities, such as a 1957 low-slung modern home on Cumberland Road and a 1951 residence in Altadena, the interiors of which were featured in *Architectural Digest*. A distinctive later work, the 1977 wood shingle-clad contemporary home at 326 Kempton in Glendale, is in a sad state of neglect and disrepair as it awaits a pending remodel.

Local commercial structures designed by Burkhard include the Mid-century Modern Old English Cleaners (1966) on East Wilson Avenue and branches of the Valley National Bank in Glendale and Burbank. Like his father, who was Glendale's mayor from 1951 to 1953, Burkhard was active in the community, serving on the Glendale City Building Commission and the Planning Commission.

Thanks to Tim Gregory for his research and writing on Burkhard, on which this article is based.

TGHS Loses Appeal of Historic Craftsman Development Project



Rendering of planned development at 534 N. Kenwood

On May 4, Council voted 3-1 to sustain the Design Review Board's decision to approve a massive three-story development around the rare 1913 Aeroplane Craftsman at 534 N. Kenwood. The City recognizes the Craftsman as a historic resource.

Only Mayor Devine voted in favor of the appeal; Dan Brotman recused himself because he spoke in opposition to the project in 2019, before he ran for Council.

TGHS and its attorney Amy Minter contended that the project would adversely affect the historic resource and cause substantial aesthetic impacts because of its size, mass and scale relative to the Craftsman. The proposed project involves

demolition of the original garage and another lovely Craftsman and garage next door. While the Aeroplane Craftsman would remain and be restored, the project wraps around and towers over it. The approved three-story building is only ten feet away and is 17 feet taller (40'3" vs. 22'9") and five feet closer to Kenwood than the Craftsman.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was signed into law by then Governor Ronald Reagan 50 years ago. CEQA makes it clear that when two qualified experts disagree on the effects of a development on an identified historic property, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared. TGHS's authority in such matters is Francesca Smith, a qualified expert in architectural history with more than thirty-five years' experience.

The Council hearing was disappointing for two additional reasons: first, the personal attack on Smith simply because she is a member of TGHS, recognized on several occasions by the organization for her expertise; and second, the decision to limit input from the public. A number of residents and TGHS members were not allowed to comment on the appeal nor to counter the inappropriate comments and attack on Smith.

TGHS will continue to stress that developing on a historic property comes with constraints. In 2018, the City approved the relocation of a 108-year-old historic Craftsman house for development. Now they have approved a large development around another 108-year-old historic Craftsman house. On Page 2 of this newsletter you can read about an even larger project in the works, involving a historic Craftsman at 132 S. Kenwood.

Report from Membership/Outreach Inclusion Committee

MOIC is energetically pursuing its mission of expanding membership to young families with children, college students and the many diverse groups living in Glendale. Since recruiting new TGHS intern Brian Murphy from GCC (see the article about him on Page 5), MOIC is preparing for additional outreach to other colleges and to GUSD.

In April, the Committee partnered with Digital Events on a well-attended Zoom lecture by Stephen Gee on the trailblazing African American architect Paul Revere Williams. In late May, Neil Parsons, a historian who specializes in Africa, gave a talk on his book "Clicko: The Wild Dancing Bushman," about the extraordinary African circus performer who lived briefly in Glendale; TGHS tried but failed to save the home from demolition.

MOIC has exciting and varied offerings coming up in June. A documentary on Rockhaven will trace the groundbreaking work done there in the field of mental health and the efforts to save the facility. "Cooking Around the World: That's How I Roll" (in collaboration with DishDivvy), will look at wrapped foods from different cultures. Several more events are in the early planning stages and will be posted at <https://glendalehistorical.org/event-listing> as soon as they are finalized.

Historic Districts Move Forward

Glendale now has two distinctive neighborhoods in the final stages of becoming the eighth and ninth historic districts: Casa Verdugo and South Cumberland Heights. Surveys presented at the April Historic Preservation Commission meeting found that they both qualified as historic districts under multiple criteria. A third, Bellehurst, is in the early stages of approval.

The period of significance (the date range that defines the importance of the district to the history, architecture and culture of a community) for Casa Verdugo is 1906-1957, which indicates the neighborhood's early development. The period of significance for South Cumberland Heights is 1922-1960, typical of an area that began to flourish with Glendale's housing boom in the 1920s. Sixty-seven percent and 74 percent of Casa Verdugo and South Cumberland properties, respectively, were found to be contributors; that is, structures built within the period of significance and retaining enough integrity to contribute to the historic character of the neighborhood. Both rise above the 60-percent threshold required for a local historic district.

The Commission voted to allow proponents of Casa Verdugo and South Cumberland Heights to circulate the final survey that asks residents to approve creation of the historic district. They have six months to submit signatures.

At the same meeting, a petition from applicants for the



The 1924 "Home of Sunlight" on Idlewood, a contributor to the pending South Cumberland Heights Historic District

proposed Bellehurst Historic District was presented, with more than the 25 percent of owner signatures required to request preparation of a historic district survey, so that process is also now underway.

TGHS looks forward to adding these three to the seven existing historic districts. It has been a long haul, but it appears there is now more support, thanks to the City Council, for historic districts. The current ordinance for creating a historic district requires many steps, including multiple surveys and reviews, before approval by Council. This ordinance is being reviewed and, if proposed changes are approved, will streamline the process. TGHS would welcome this development.



Brian Murphy

TGHS Welcomes Intern Brian Murphy

The first Glendale Community College student to be recruited by the Membership/Outreach Inclusion Committee for TGHS, Brian Murphy brings an exceptional skill set to his internship. He is currently a student in the Department of Architecture/Industrial Design, with a concentration on the design aspects of engineering and architecture. "My goal is to work in sustainability and/or marine environmental design, designing products and systems to make the world a better place not just for humans, but for all living things," he says.

The skills that Murphy developed during his 15 years of post-production work in the entertainment industry serve him well as he develops two projects for TGHS: creating an interactive PDF of all historic properties in Glendale and assisting Russ Harnden and Peter Rusch on a documentary film about the Doctors House. TGHS is delighted to have his expertise on these initiatives.

Murphy lives in Burbank with his wife, Vikki, and their rescue husky/German Shepherd mix, Sadie.

MEMBERSHIP/VIRTUAL EVENTS



Robert Gordon, Ehab Nawar, Katherine Nazarian (GFCU Marketing Coordinator), Steve Hunt
PHOTO: Allison Mendoza

TGHS and GFCU Join Forces

The Glendale Historical Society is thrilled to announce an exciting new partnership with the Glendale Federal Credit Union. Approved by the Board of Directors of both organizations, the partnership went into effect on March 1, 2021.

This mutually beneficial relationship will enable those not part of an affiliated group to join the credit union by assignment to a special TGHS field of membership. In return, the credit union will donate a one-year individual membership to TGHS, as a benefit to everyone who opens a new account under this designation, thus increasing the membership base of both organizations.

TGHS and GFCU have much in common: both are membership-driven, have all-volunteer Boards of

Directors open to all members, hold an annual membership meeting, grant members voting rights, offer participation in events and activities and maintain updated membership rosters. Above all, both organizations are dedicated to making positive contributions to the community.

“We are impressed by the work and success of The Glendale Historical Society,” said Ehab Nawar, GFCU President/CEO. “Your members have identified, celebrated and worked to conserve Glendale’s many beautiful and historic architectural landmarks. We are proud to partner with TGHS.”

TGHS welcomes these new friends as an essential part of its ongoing effort to be a strong voice for historic preservation, and looks forward to meeting them soon!

Native Tile & Ceramics: A Virtual Studio Tour

“Tile makes you happy,” asserts ceramic master artisan Diana Mausser, owner and founder of Native Tile & Ceramics.

More than 140 TGHS members who logged on to Mausser’s fascinating presentation on March 18 couldn’t help but agree as she illustrated the labor-intensive process of tilemaking and showed one slide after another of colorful fountains, pools, stair risers, fireplace surrounds and other installations of her own design, painstakingly created by her loyal team of artisans.

A lover of textiles and sculpture, Mausser began her journey into the world of tile as a design major at UCLA, where she studied centuries of patterns from diverse cultures. Inspired by the depth of color in historic California tiles (“they looked like textiles, but put into tile”), Mausser soon determined that her life’s work was to make tile in her own style; she now has some 1,200 designs to her credit. TGHS congratulates this California master on the 30th anniversary of Native Tile & Ceramics.

Many thanks to the sponsors of this presentation and the three other Virtual Events reviewed in this newsletter: Alan Adams, The Window Surgeon; Forest Lawn; G&C Properties; and Michael Taylor, Regrout.



Diana Mausser in her studio

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

Upcoming Event: TGHS ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, July 17, 2021 10:00 am (via Zoom)

Raising the Bar Toasts Brand Fly-In Anniversary

Exactly one century after Leslie and Mary Louise Brand's famous fly-in party at El Miradero, TGHS marked the April 1 anniversary with a Raising the Bar event like no other. The home of Patricia Messina and Terrance Hines served as the Cockpit Club, where Peter Rusch and Scott Halloran re-created classic cocktails such as the Bee's Knees and the Fly-In Martini, while chatting with celebrated aviatrix Neta Snook, who dropped in for the evening's revels.

Dozens of attendees at home, many of whom came dressed "dapper or flapper," were then treated to a trailer for Russell Harnden's upcoming documentary "Glendale's Golden Age of Films & Flying: The Story of the Brand Fly-In." Watch for it on a screen near you this fall!



1920s Prohibition bartenders Peter Rusch and Scott Halloran; Neta Snook (aka Patricia Messina) pays a flying visit to the Cockpit Club
PHOTO: Terrance Hines

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