



DOCTORS HOUSE DOCUMENTARY TO PREMIERE THIS FALL



First day of shooting! Foreground: Russell Harnden III, Jonathan Davian Engle (Photographer and Editor) and Leona Abrahamian (Additional Photography and Lighting Assistant), both of Glendale TV. Facing camera: Peter Rusch
PHOTO: Patricia Messina

Produced and directed by Russell Harnden III and starring Doctors House Museum Curator Peter Rusch, the long-awaited documentary *Discovering the Doctors House* will have its premiere on September 24. Appropriately enough, the event will be held on the grounds of the Doctors House in Brand Park, with outdoor projection on a large screen.

Rusch serves as tour guide and host, leading the viewer on an entertaining history lesson as he points out defining exterior features and intricate interior details of the Queen Anne-Eastlake house museum. He tells the story of the committed volunteers who rescued the derelict Victorian structure, moved it to the park and lovingly restored it for all to enjoy—launching The Glendale Historical Society in the process.

The project began more than a year ago, when former TGHS Board member Robert Gordon facilitated a meeting with Glendale TV, where he had previously worked on educational projects.

An initial Zoom session in April 2021 led to a collaboration between TGHS and Glendale TV that Harnden hailed as “extraordinary in the production and post-production phases of the project.” Harnden further stated that he hopes the documentary will “entice those who have never been to the Doctors House to come up to Brand Park for an in-person tour.”

Discovering the Doctors House will be broadcast on Glendale TV and will serve as a permanent record of the beloved landmark. The documentary also has enormous potential as an educational tool for the students of Glendale and beyond. Kudos and heartfelt thanks to Harnden, Rusch and their entire team for their time and expertise as TGHS eagerly awaits the premiere screening of this invaluable documentary.

Rare House by S. Charles Lee Listed on Glendale Register



Cronenweth House

residence the year before he received his first theater commission—the Tower Theatre in downtown LA, spectacularly rehabilitated in 2021 as an Apple Store. By 1950, Lee had designed some 400 theaters.

The City Council also designated Cronenweth House, another lovely, and uniquely unornamented, Spanish Colonial Revival property. This grand house is very prominent within the El Miradero neighborhood, as it is located on a triangular lot at the intersection of Grandview, Sonora, and Bel Aire Drive.

TGHS congratulates the owners.

On May 3, the City Council approved two new properties for the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

The newly designated Dick House is in the Verdugo Woodlands and was designed in 1926 by S. Charles Lee, who was among the most important architects of movie theaters in the United States. He designed this charming Spanish Colonial Revival



This door, curved to fit the round entrance tower, is one of the noteworthy features that earned Dick House GR designation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

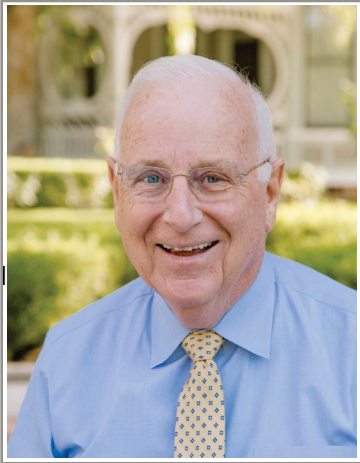


PHOTO: Irmina Hamilton

At the end of July, I will be stepping down as President of The Glendale Historical Society. It seems appropriate to look back over the past four years.

I became President of TGHS in August 2018, following a successful Gala & Benefit at the elegant Davis Estate and two months before the marvelous “Royal Revivals”

Home Tour. Thanks to the tireless energy of Executive Director Sean Bersell and the long, dedicated tenure of such Board members as Greg Grammer and Marcia Hanford, I took over the lead of a very strong organization. Our 40th Anniversary year of 2019 saw 24 outstanding events, including another successful Gala at the beautiful Stanford House and the record-breaking “Icons of Architecture” Home Tour.

At the start of 2020, we were planning another banner year. Then, of course, everything was overturned by the pandemic. Thanks to the new Digital Events Committee chaired by Cathy Grayson, TGHS made a smooth transition to Zoom. Along with the Membership Outreach and Inclusion Committee (MOIC), TGHS managed to produce 22 lively and informative digital events to keep us connected and inspired.

Our preservation work remained active despite the challenges. Heartfelt thanks go to Francesca Smith, Catherine Jurca and John Schwab-Sims for their advocacy. Successes during my tenure as president include: a substantial revision to the City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance that now protects potential historic resources and pending historic districts; an ADU ordinance that minimizes the impact of added dwelling units on historic properties and in historic districts; the hiring of a new planner with expertise in historic preservation; and the planned preparation of an East-West Glendale Historic Resources Survey. TGHS continues to pressure the City to acknowledge potential impacts of development on historic resources and to avoid them, as with the projects at 534 N. Kenwood St., subject of the first lawsuit in the organization’s history; and 620 N. Brand Blvd. Casa Verdugo and South Cumberland Heights are now Historic Districts. Bellehurst is pending and another application is imminent. Several properties and Nibley Park have been added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

In recognition of these and other fruitful efforts over more than 40 years, the Los Angeles Conservancy gave TGHS a prestigious Preservation Award at a ceremony on October 27, 2021, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The City of Glendale, like all cities in California, is required to plan for a specified number of residential units to meet regional housing needs, occasionally conflicting with our preservation goals. TGHS is fortunate to have dedicated preservationists who will challenge development decisions that adversely impact historic resources.

Our beloved Doctors House reopened in May with a fascinating exhibit, “Breaking Barriers: Glendale’s Early Women Entrepreneurs.” You can see it now through November on a docent-led tour.

“I am enormously gratified that TGHS membership has remained strong during the pandemic. Your loyalty throughout this difficult time will be rewarded as we begin to resume in-person events.”

As reported on Page 1 of this issue, Russell Harnden III has produced a detailed video documentary on the Doctors House. Also, thanks to David Eisenberg and Marcia Hanford, the entire 43-year history of TGHS has been preserved through an archive of our past newsletters. Visit <https://glendalehistorical.org/newsletters> to access the collection. The website now has Katherine Yamada’s ongoing series, “Still Standing After All These Years.” In Part III, she picks up the story in 1890, when a small triangle of prime Verdugo land boasted a post office, a community hall and grocery stores: <https://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing-3>

I am enormously gratified that TGHS membership has remained strong during the pandemic. Your loyalty and support throughout this difficult time will be rewarded as we begin to resume in-person events.

As I write this, my last President’s Message, I am filled with gratitude for everyone—Board members, Patrons, Sponsors, volunteers and all TGHS members and supporters—who made this journey with me over the last four years. It has been an honor to be your President.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Hunt".

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Glendale's New Face in Historic Preservation



Kasey Conley
PHOTO: Eugene Ng

TGHS is delighted to introduce you to Kasey Conley, an associate planner with the City of Glendale. Conley has a Master's Degree in Heritage Conservation from USC and two years' experience as a historic preservation consultant. Her hiring fulfills the promise made by Council to bring on at least one new staff member with expertise in historic preservation.

After a career in retail, Conley wanted a change. Her love of architecture and history led her

to historic preservation—once she realized that people could actually do something so interesting and fun for a living.

One facet of her new job involves talking with property owners and educating them about their historic buildings. Recently, she has been researching and presenting properties whose owners are seeking to place them on the Glendale Register, including houses by notable architects Paul Williams and S. Charles Lee.

When asked about her favorite building in Glendale, Conley mentioned the Municipal Building, #100 on the Glendale Register. She likes distinctive civic buildings and feels lucky to work in such an interesting one. She even gets to walk to work!

Upon reflection, she also offered another idea about her favorite. She loves little houses, “not historic with a capital H,” as she puts it, but older homes that have been preserved, that are “doing their own things, housing people



Kasey Conley's favorite building (and workplace) in Glendale

in a great way.” Small details, like original windows and siding that are still intact, clearly show that they are loved by residents.

TGHS members love these kinds of buildings too. Welcome, Kasey Conley!

534 N. Kenwood St. Lawsuit Update

TGHS has filed a brief that lays out the detailed legal arguments for its case that the City of Glendale violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when it approved a massive 12-unit residential project on the site of a rare Aeroplane Craftsman-style house built in 1913. TGHS is asking the Court to set aside the City's decision and require preparation of an EIR.

The brief establishes a solid legal foundation (based in many instances on successful cases brought by TGHS attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley) for the argument that the City could not ignore the expert, fact-based opinion that the project would adversely impact the historic resource, which was bolstered by community complaints about the aesthetic and visual impacts of the project. TGHS invites members to read the brief now posted at <https://glendalehistorical.org/preservation-alerts>

Two Lawsuits Against City over Grayson Power Plant

In February 2022, the Glendale City Council approved the Grayson Repowering Project and certified an Environmental Impact Report. Two groups have sued the City under the California Environmental Quality Act. TGHS is not involved in these actions.

The Sierra Club is one of the petitioners. The suit accuses the City of inflating its energy needs to justify new gas units, thereby failing to provide decision-makers and the public with complete and accurate information as required in the EIR process. In addition, the Council opted to consider adding hydrogen units to the project; the Sierra Club also challenges the EIR on the grounds that the impacts associated with burning hydrogen were never studied. Finally, the suit argues that the City neglected its responsibility to adequately analyze environmental justice impacts.

A separate lawsuit was filed by Glendale Residents Against Environmental Destruction (GRAED). This suit focuses on the impacts to the historic Grayson Steam-Electric Power Plant Building and the City's failure to follow its own policies regarding approvals for the demolition of a historic resource. It alleges that the Historic Preservation Commission should have reviewed the project and EIR and made a recommendation before Council took action. It further claims that the City did not analyze adaptive reuse of the massive building, with strong infrastructure, to house the battery farm or new gas units.

TGHS had argued that the EIR was inadequate but declined to file suit. The legal standard when the City has prepared an EIR is high, and courts are very much inclined to defer to decision-makers. TGHS will keep you posted on the outcome as more information becomes available.

TGHS Candidate Questions Improve Preservation Across City

Since 2015, TGHS has invited candidates for City Council to answer questions related to historic preservation. We have been grateful for candidates' consistent and thoughtful participation.

A review reveals that past questions have paved the way for Council decisions that have significantly improved historic preservation in Glendale. Beneficial changes include:

- Revising the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance to add protections for potential historic resources and pending historic districts
- Minimizing the impact of state-mandated ADUs on historic properties and historic districts
- Ensuring that the City, rather than developer, selects the consultant who prepares an Environmental Impact Report
- Hiring a new planner with expertise in historic preservation (see the article about Kasey Conley on Page 3 of this issue)
- Preparing an East-West Glendale Historic Resources Survey
- Offering Mills Act contracts to historic district contributors

TGHS hopes that this year's candidate responses result in improvements as well. Visit <https://glendalehistorical.org/ask-the-candidates-2022> for their replies.

EVENTS

Discovering Eden: Early Armenian Immigration to California



A thriving enterprise: the Seropian Brothers' market in Fresno

Did you know that Armenian immigrants, by introducing traditional sulfur-bleaching techniques to the local raisin industry, created the California Golden Seedless Raisin?

On April 28, in honor of Armenian History Month, Ani Mnatsakanyan gave TGHS members a compelling Zoom presentation on early Armenian immigration to California's Central Valley and the settlement of Yettem ("Garden of Eden" in Armenian), the only town in the United States with an Armenian name.

Armenians are indigenous to the Caucasus and Southwest Asia, where farming was the primary economy. When they first arrived in the United States, Armenians settled on the East Coast and in the Midwest but eventually found their way to the Fresno area, so similar in climate to their homeland, where they established farms and grew the fruits and nuts of their cultural

traditions. They enjoyed enormous success, cleverly marketing figs, unfamiliar to Americans, by wrapping them around nuts.

However, discrimination against Armenians, plus news of massacres in their homeland, prompted three men to leave Fresno in 1901, travel south and form a new town where Armenians could reestablish their lives. They called it Yettem. Many Armenians who escaped the Genocide of 1915 found refuge there.

Mnatsakanyan finds the choice to grow grapes in Yettem, besides a means of survival, to be a culturally significant act. "Considering the tradition of viticulture in the Armenian highlands," she said, "a fruit so deeply rooted within the landscape and Armenian culture, I'm inclined to believe that the growing of grapes in the Central Valley is really a mode of resistance and rebirth in a new region: a symbolic form of heritage conservation, a method of keeping a connective thread between an old life and a new life."

Raising the Bar(n) with the Stone Barn Vineyard Conservancy

Next time you raise a glass of wine, you might want to offer a silent toast to the Paleolithic woman who found that her stored grapes had fermented and refused to let them go to waste, thus discovering wine. Undoubtedly, she soon invited others to her cave to share the transformative experience that caused her to forget all about lurking saber-toothed tigers and the general bleakness of existence. Word of this marvelous elixir eventually spread around the world to connect us all.

That, at any rate, is the story told by Raising the Bar creator Laura Crook during an animated Zoom wine tasting and discussion on March 25. The purpose of the tale was twofold: to educate and amuse her audience and to allow time for the proper decanting of the Dunsmore Creek Alicante Bouschet, provided for tasting by vintner Stuart Byles of the Stone Barn Wine Conservancy.

As everyone sipped, Crook related the fascinating history of viticulture in California, explaining the relationship of terroir and taste and how California's various microclimates affected wine production. She noted the influence of Junípero Serra and the missions, which were major wine-producing centers, and many more delightful details concerning wine. A spirited Q&A session followed.



Did you miss these events? Would you like to learn more about viticulture and viniculture in Armenia and the U.S.? Pour yourself a glass and go to <https://glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events> and enjoy!

DOCTORS HOUSE

Doctors House Opens with Exhibit on Women



One of Dorothy Thorpe's delightful designs



Cathy Nicksin welcomes attendees to the table of goodies from Porto's

On May 14, the Doctors House Museum reopened with a festive evening reception in the gazebo and docent-led tours of a new special exhibit, "Breaking Barriers: Glendale's Pioneering Women Entrepreneurs," which will run through November.

Five rooms in the Museum are dedicated to five extraordinary women of Glendale: world-renowned Mid-century glassware designer Dorothy Thorpe; groundbreaking filmmaker Nell Shipman; pioneering cosmetics manufacturer Fanny Briggs Carr; prolific California art pottery owner A. Lois Modglin; and famed restaurateur Piedad Yorba Sowl. Docents shared archival photos, historic artifacts and insider stories of these legendary Glendale women.

"After such a lengthy pandemic closing, it feels especially appropriate to reopen with an event celebrating Glendale's historic women pioneers," said outgoing TGHS President Steve Hunt. "It was originally scheduled for March, in honor of Women's History Month, but it was worth the wait."



New Docents Ani Mnatsakanyan and Taleen Barsoumian study their docent manuals

TGHS Welcomes New Doctors House Docents

On April 30, in preparation for the Doctors House reopening in May, Curator Peter Rusch led a training for seven new docents. Ably assisted by Director Laura Crook and TGHS Board member/lead docent Kathryn Brunet, Rusch introduced the comprehensive docent materials, shared inspirational Doctors House lore and gave the volunteers an in-depth tour.

The docents, in turn, inspired their trainers with the wealth of talent and expertise that they bring. Among them are historians, educators, historic home owners and bilingual speakers (Spanish and Armenian), whose gifts are matched by their enthusiasm for the opportunity to share TGHS's charming Victorian house museum with the public.

A warm welcome to Janet Armitstead, Taleen Barsoumian, Robert Coshland, Renée Leask, Ani Mnatsakanyan, Carol Trujillo and Eileen Wallis! TGHS is very happy to have you on the Doctors House team.

WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS FEBRUARY - APRIL 2022

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Laurel Patric
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STUDENT

Hasmik Vrtanesyan

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Find us on  

EVENTS CALENDAR

TGHS is delighted to announce three exciting upcoming LIVE events!
Be sure to save these dates. You will receive further information by Constant Contact.

Saturday, July 16, 10:00 am
ANNUAL MEETING

Brand Park, Doctors House lawn

Be sure to come to TGHS's first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019! Along with the yearly business meeting required by TGHS bylaws, there will be refreshments and the company of other TGHS members.

Saturday, September 24, Time TBA
DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE SCREENING

Discovering the Doctors House
Brand Park, Doctors House lawn

Russell Harnden III's long-awaited documentary on the Doctors House will be premiered at an outdoor screening. See article on Page 1 for details on the history of this exciting project.

Saturday, October 22, Time and place TBA
GALA & BENEFIT

TGHS is pleased to announce the return of the annual Gala & Benefit. Imagine, after two years: an opportunity to dress up, enjoy food and drink, reconnect with old friends, make new ones and find the perfect auction item to bid on!

The auction will be both in person and online, where you can preview items and bid.

DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM
Now open for tours on Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Be sure to catch this special exhibit! "Breaking Barriers: Glendale's Pioneering Women Entrepreneurs"
On view through November 2022

Please note: The Museum is closed during the month of July.

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