



HERE'S YOUR INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!

TGHS Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 15, 2023 – 10:00 am to noon

Historic Glendale Eats and Drinks

Members: Join us for TGHS's Annual Meeting on the lawn of the Doctors House! We'll review the past year's activities and have our own eats and drinks with a light brunch.

Bruce Merritt will speak about Glendale's iconic and beloved Damon's, serving great food and fun since 1937. **Joemy Wilson** will trace the development of her neighborhood from its early days as the site of the Pelanconi Vineyards to the charming residential enclave it is today.

Please RSVP by July 10 to (818) 242-7447 or info@glendalehistorical.org

See you there!

TGHS Wins Lawsuit, Reaches Agreement to Reduce Size and Add More Housing at 534 N. Kenwood

As previously noted in these pages, TGHS won its lawsuit against the City of Glendale over the project at 534 N. Kenwood. On October 31, 2022, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joel Lofton found that the City of Glendale "had abused its discretion" by failing to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project at 534 N. Kenwood due to significant environmental impacts to the historic Craftsman property. As a result, the project approval was voided as TGHS requested.

Following this victory, TGHS engaged in settlement negotiations with the developer on a revised project that would not have significant environmental impacts and so would not require an EIR process. A compromise revised project was reached for the project applicant to propose to the City, with the following key outcomes:

- The new development is reduced from three stories to two stories and is now better scaled to the historic resource.
- The new development contains 15 units, including two affordable units; the original project was for 12, all market rate.
- The setback of the new development is moved back to match that of the historic resource.
- Any discretionary changes requested by the developer that modify the mutually agreed scale and setback must have TGHS approval.
- TGHS must be notified in advance to allow for comment as to any proposals to replace exterior character-defining features and materials of the Craftsman as necessary for the rehabilitation.
- TGHS will be reimbursed for all of its legal fees and costs incurred in the lawsuit.

As part of the agreement, TGHS did agree to demolition of the garage. TGHS has always worked to avoid litigation, but this project left the organization no choice. TGHS is pleased and hopeful that this result will encourage proper environmental review for subsequent City projects. TGHS has demonstrated an ability to work collaboratively with developers to build more housing in Glendale while preserving and celebrating historic resources. In this case, negotiations resulted in more units than the original project (including two affordable) while reducing its size and scale.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PHOTO: Matthew Letcher

One critical component of TGHS's mission is to advocate for the preservation of the precious historic resources of our city. TGHS believes that it is possible to preserve these resources and still build desperately needed housing; these two desirable goals are not mutually exclusive. As reported in the Fall 2020

issue of this newsletter, TGHS engaged with the Historic Preservation Commission and City Council to ensure preservation of Harrower Labs, a National Register-eligible building, with 100 percent new affordable housing onsite behind it.

Therefore, we were disappointed that on April 11, City Council voted 3-2 to demolish a historic Craftsman at 1642 S. Central and allow developers to build a five-story, 31-unit housing project. The unfortunate result of this vote made it clear that TGHS should provide an unbiased and objective evaluation of how Councilmembers vote on preservation-related matters that we advocate for.

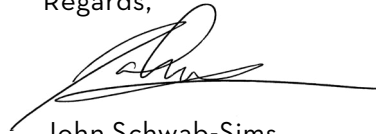
Consequently, I am pleased to share the news that TGHS is establishing a Glendale Preservation Score for each Councilmember. Preservation votes made since the last Council election (July 2022) will be included in the evaluation, and it will be updated when new votes take place. This process will provide transparency and accountability and will enable you to quickly determine whether or not each Councilmember's voting record supports our preservation efforts.

We expect to finalize the scores shortly. Our intent is to make them easily accessible and to include additional details regarding the objective calculation.

We know that 1642 S. Central will not be the last historic property at risk of demolition due to new development. It is important that we continue to advocate for preservation, wherever possible, along with thoughtful development. Council needs to hear your voice during its deliberations.

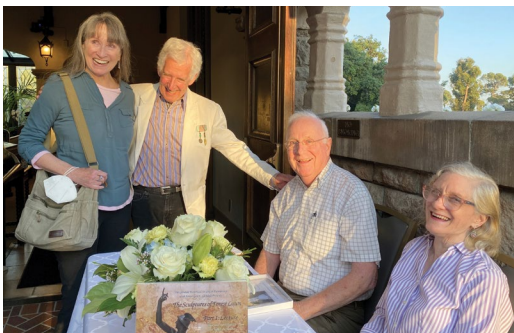
Again, I thank you for your continued support of TGHS.

Regards,



John Schwab-Sims

The Sculptures of Forest Lawn: Lecture and Tour



Marcia Hanford checks in at the Little Church of the Flowers and shares a laugh with committee members Peter Rusch, Steve Hunt and Renée Leask

How do you keep your weak-ankled marble statue of David from falling over? Replace him in bronze. Problem solved!

As Museum Director James Fishburne explained to a sold-out crowd at his April 27 lecture, both marble and bronze replicas of Michelangelo's iconic David are admired all over the world. After World War I, Founder Hubert Eaton envisioned Forest Lawn as a peaceful memorial park where replicas of great European art would enable people of ordinary means to make the Grand Tour in their own backyard. In his erudite and often amusing lecture, Fishburne also paid tribute to the

artisans of Pietrasanta, Italy, where many of Forest Lawn's works are fashioned from local Carrara marble in an intricate process involving both art and science to produce beautiful and highly detailed replicas.

On the following Sunday, participants enjoyed a private tour of the Great Mausoleum and its magnificent sculptures, led by Fishburne, Renée Leask and Peter Rusch. Many thanks to Forest Lawn, a valued longtime TGHS sponsor, and to the committee that put together this wonderful two-part experience: Steve Hunt, Don Snyder, Leask and Rusch.



Dr. James Fishburne begins his survey of the museum's sculpture collection with Eaton's first purchase, *Duck Baby* by Edith Barretto Parsons

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Daniel Paul Joins Historic Preservation Commission



Daniel Paul

TGHS is delighted to welcome Architectural Historian Daniel Paul as the HPC's newest Commissioner. Appointed by Councilmember Dan Brotman on March 7, 2023, Paul brings a deeply impressive set of qualifications to the job. Paul replaces Commissioner Lorna Vartanian, who had served her maximum term. TGHS thanks her for her years of service to the City on behalf of historic preservation.

Paul received his BA in Art History from California State University,

Fullerton and his MA in Art History (*magna cum laude*) from California State University, Northridge. Naturally, as he says, in art history courses "you do learn about the greatest hits in Western architecture," but it was his passion for Outsider Art that serendipitously brought him to historic preservation and his life's work as an architectural historian.

Shortly before the Northridge earthquake of 1994, Paul happened to be leafing through an art book on folk environments and fell in love with the idea that "individuals not considered artists could be so creative." One of those was Tessa "Grandma" Prsbrey and her extraordinary creation in Simi Valley called Bottle Village. Paul visited the severely damaged site three days after the quake and spent the next fifteen years working to save it, marking his transition from a career in art per se to historic preservation.

Paul soon became involved with the L.A. Conservancy's Modern Committee, where he and others essentially trained themselves to do landmark nominations. Over a 30-year career, he has prepared many successful nominations at the local, state and national level, including the 2006 National Register listing of Glendale's Ard Eevin.

A California native, in 2016 Paul moved to the Glendale/La Crescenta Highlands, which styles itself "The Balcony of Southern California." He loves "living on the edge of the balcony" and being immersed in nature yet close to downtown L.A. "Everywhere I turn is a living plant," he says, "not to mention quite a lot of historical architecture preserved not in small part due to The Glendale Historical Society!"

Commissioner Daniel Paul, TGHS is honored to have you in our midst, helping to preserve all that is good about Glendale.

Council Approves Demolition of Historic Craftsman at 1642 S. Central Ave.

On April 11, City Council voted 3-2 to demolish a rare Tropic Craftsman bungalow, allowing development of a five-story apartment building. City Council had previously determined the property qualified as a historic resource.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) had voted unanimously to reject the project and instructed the applicant to return with a proposal for a smaller housing project that would allow for preservation of the historic Craftsman in the location it has occupied for 110 years. The applicant appealed.

At the hearing, Councilmembers Elen Asatryan, Ardy Kassakhian and Ara Najarian voted for demolition, while Dan Brotman and Paula Devine voted in support of the HPC's recommendation.

TGHS urged Council to deny the appeal. That a majority did not do so sets a troubling precedent. Even though the developer knew the property was historic, he bought it to demolish it. Other developers may see this as a green light to buy other historic resources with some confidence that Council will support demolition.

Devine stated during the meeting that we have to find ways to balance

preservation of historic resources and creating housing. The Glendale Historical Society wholeheartedly agrees. TGHS President John Schwab-Sims made the point that in many cases, as with 1642 S. Central, a historic resource can be preserved and new housing added. Demolition versus new housing is a false choice.

The Councilmembers who voted to demolish the historic resource noted several times that it was in poor condition. This thought was then used as a pretext to allow demolition.

Condition has nothing to do with historical significance. A property must possess *integrity*, which means that it retains a majority of elements: integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, location, feeling and association. The Craftsman bungalow possessed its historic integrity and was an excellent candidate for rehabilitation, as the City's Senior Urban Designer and historic preservation planner made clear.

There were several other troubling aspects of the Council discussion. Najarian continued his attack on preservation; in his view, volunteers who advocate for preservation are "biased," but consultants paid by developers are not. It is not clear why one would value the recommendation

of consultants that are paid to arrive at a conclusion over that of a community member that volunteers their time for a cause they care deeply about.

Asatryan noted there were other historic Craftsman properties nearby in Tropic, and expressed the hope that one of them might be preserved and become a Tropic Museum. As TGHS wrote in its email updating members about the outcome of the appeal, "This is a vision of the future that TGHS will not support: in which Glendale's historic resources can be demolished so long as one remains to exhibit photographs of the rest."

Before the final vote, Kassakhian mentioned that he would like to explore providing city funding to South Glendale residents to help with upkeep of historic properties. TGHS would support these efforts, but that proposal had nothing to do with the merits of the project before Council. Claims about "condition" for Glendale Register-eligible properties should not be a pretext to allow demolition. Unsurprisingly, many one-hundred-year-old properties are not in pristine condition.

TGHS will remain engaged and continue to advocate for Glendale's historic resources.



1642 S. Central, a Mills Act-eligible property slated for demolition



Rendering of proposed structure at the 1642 S. Central site

PRESERVATION

Council Finds Stables in the Riverside Rancho Not Historic



In March 2023, City Council declined to require an EIR for demolition of the Silver Spur Stables at 1900 Riverside Drive, overturning the decision of Director of Community Development Bradley Calvert to analyze historic resources impacts.

When a developer proposed a multi-family housing project in 2018, neighbors asked TGHS for guidance to preserve the stables, asserting their historical significance. The developer hired a consultant who found the property not to be historic.

The neighbors hired consultant Jenna Snow, who produced an extensively researched, fact-based assessment. She found the property to be individually eligible for the Glendale and California Registers for its association with local equestrian history and as one of the few remaining commercial equestrian properties, and also for its association with Grover "Sandy" Sanders, a prominent Hollywood stuntman who operated the stables and a riding academy there in the 1950s. She also found the property to be part of an equestrian-themed historic district of five properties.



Why walk over to visit your neighbor when you can ride?

When the current owner sought to demolish the stables to build a dog kennel and a smaller horse facility, the same neighbors now claimed the property was not historic. Emily Gabel-Luddy falsely accused TGHS of sending the Snow report to city staff without permission, leading Councilmember Ara Najarian to blabber about intellectual property theft. Fortunately, TGHS had proof of her authorization.

The Glendale Historical Society supported the City Planning Staff's recommendation to require an EIR and was disappointed with Council's decision to overturn the Director's recommendation. Council did confirm support, however, for retaining the equestrian land use within the Riverside Rancho, which is a vital part of this area's history.

DOCTORS HOUSE

Victorian Easter Returns to the Doctors House

On April 2, after a pandemic hiatus of four years and much pent-up anticipation, TGHS once again presented its beloved Victorian Easter Egg Hunt on the rolling lawns of the Doctors House Museum.

The sold-out event featured traditional Victorian games, story time under the trees with Nona (Cathy Grayson), hand-churning ice cream with Valerie Campbell, Joe Selph's crowd-pleasing marionette show, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny (Mireya Romo-Bowen, back in town) and of course, that fabulous mad scramble known as the Easter Egg Hunt.

Once the children had filled their baskets and cleared the lawn of a record 4,000 eggs, several families spread blankets and enjoyed picnics on the shady lawn.

Kudos to Museum Director Laura Crook and her team for a spectacular egg-stravaganza!



At long last, the gates are opened!



The Gazebo makes a perfect open-air stage



Families picnic on the lawn while others wait patiently in line for fresh-churned ice cream



Don't drop that egg!



Valerie Campbell and helpers make ice cream the old-fashioned way



Lush grass makes for a challenging course



Joe Selph delights adults and children alike with his marionettes

WELCOME!

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through the Glendale
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Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

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Gabriella Zecchetto & Blake Mills

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 4, 10:00 am

PAINT AND SIP AT THE DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM

A plein air painting event, led by Dilmit Singh,
to kick off the exhibit "Architecture as Art"

Tickets: TGHS Members \$50. Nonmembers \$65.

Check for availability and purchase at
[Glendalehistorical.org/event-listing](https://glendalehistorical.org/event-listing)

June 4 through November 26, Sundays 2:00-4:00

ARCHITECTURE AS ART

Doctors House special exhibit: artists' interpretations of
significant historic structures throughout the city of Glendale

Saturday, July 15, 10:00-noon

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

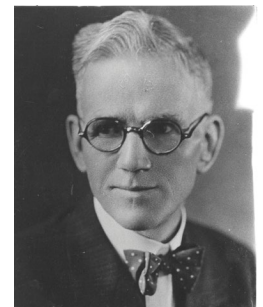
RSVP by July 10 to (818) 242-7447 or info@glendalehistorical.org

"STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PART VII"

by Katherine Peters Yamada

E.D. Goode led the fight for a high school for Glendale, which opened in 1901. The following year, George Moyse was hired as principal and remained in that position for 35 years. Learn about him and two famous 1920s Glendale athletes, John Wayne and "Babe" Herman.

Read the full article at: <https://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing-7>



George Moyse in 1920

PHOTO: Glendale History Room, Glendale Library, Arts & Culture

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