



## TGHS HONORED BY LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY WITH PRESERVATION AWARD



From left: Francesca Smith, Greg Grammer, John Schwab-Sims, Marcia Hanford, Steve Hunt, Cathy Jurca, Ani Mnatsakanyan  
PHOTO: Larry Underhill

**O**n October 27, The Glendale Historical Society finally got the chance to receive and celebrate its 2020 Preservation Award from the Los Angeles Conservancy. Last year's ceremony was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Conservancy hosted a cocktail reception at the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which was itself the recipient of a 2021 Preservation Award from the Conservancy following a recent renovation. TGHS Board members and volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to network with other prominent preservation groups from throughout the Los Angeles area.

Each year, a select panel of architecture and preservation experts honors projects or organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievement in historic preservation. The recognition for TGHS stated: "A successful grassroots effort to save a historic home in the City of Glendale forty years ago is now a celebrated nonprofit helping to preserve its community's rich and diverse history and architectural heritage."

TGHS is very proud to have received this award for forty years of successful preservation advocacy and will continue to work to preserve Glendale's history for generations to come.

## City Deliberates Future of Rockhaven

**A**s reported in TGHS's Fall newsletter, on June 29, Senator Anthony Portantino (D - La Cañada Flintridge) secured \$8 million in funding for Rockhaven, a historic district listed in the National Register. The money is to be used to "renovate and preserve the historic Rockhaven property for the public to enjoy and appreciate as a museum."

The City Council met on October 26 to decide on accepting the funding and to discuss the overall strategy to rehabilitate the site. Options discussed were:

1. Developing the site as a park, including public facilities and a museum
2. Developing the site as a park with commercial opportunities
3. Entertaining non-exclusive discussions with interested parties
4. Seeking new development proposals

The Council rejected options 3 and 4 and expressed a preference for a combination of 1 and 2. Council supported the idea of a community center and other public facilities including the museum, which is necessary to qualify for the state funding. But they also would welcome commercial opportunities, such as a café, restaurant, and/or wine bar that would service visitors to the museum and park and help pay for upkeep. TGHS went on record in support of a vision that combines ample public facilities with compatible commercial uses.

A majority of Council members were also willing to explore the possibility of affordable housing at the site, a proposal that may be infeasible to implement if the character of the low-scale historic property is to be respected.

TGHS will be working closely with the City, Friends of Rockhaven and the Crescenta Valley Historical Society to ensure that all work at the property meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and that the result is something of which all Glendale will be proud.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

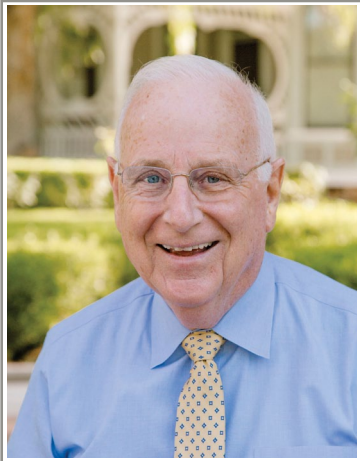


PHOTO: Irmina Hamilton

Throughout the pandemic, The Glendale Historical Society's preservation work has continued with as much dedication as ever. Three of our newest Board members are spearheading the organization's current efforts: Vice President of Preservation John Schwab-Sims leads a team that includes Board members David Meunier

and Ani Mnatsakanyan, with longtime preservation activists Cathy Jurca and Francesca Smith, both former Board members. Together they monitor projects in the city that may affect historic structures, respond to inquiries and promote preservation through lectures, digital events and outreach efforts.

This stellar team is carrying on a tradition that was just honored by the Los Angeles Conservancy with a prestigious Preservation Award. You can read about the ceremony on Page 1.

Digital events continue to keep us connected. Cathy Grayson leads a team that includes her Board colleagues as well as volunteer members. Most of these events are archived on the TGHS website. As we return to in-person events, we plan to record some of them for future viewing as well.

There is good news from the Glendale Central Library. Anne Mar was hired last March as a full-time Local History Librarian. Anyone who wishes to use the Glendale History Room to take advantage of its extensive collection can simply contact her and make an appointment. Mar reports that she's hopeful this invaluable resource will be fully open early next year.

In the expectation that 2022 will see a return to many live TGHS activities, committees are actively planning such signature events as the Home Tour, Taste of Spain and the Gala & Benefit. Exciting plans for the Doctors House include a March 2022 celebration of five historic Glendale entrepreneurial women in honor of Women's History Month. We are so looking forward to seeing you once again at these events!

-----  
TGHS has lost a good friend. Art Devine, husband of Mayor Paula Devine, passed away on September 10, 2021. We will remember him through his own words. Art was quoted as saying, *"There is nothing more rewarding and gratifying than knowing you are helping people and making a difference by giving your time and resource without wanting, expecting, or receiving anything in return."*

Words to live by for all of us.

Regards,

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

## Great News for History Buffs

For nearly twenty years, longtime TGHS member Katherine Peters Yamada wrote a history column for the Glendale News-Press. Now she will share her discoveries via a quarterly post on TGHS's website!

Yamada's debut column tells the story of a young soldier, Jose Maria Verdugo, who was stationed at San Gabriel Mission, built more than 250 years ago on land that was home to the Tongva people. After receiving a huge land grant, Verdugo lived the life of a Spanish don - ranching, raising a family, providing hospitality to travelers and sending his produce to market in the pueblo that eventually became the city of Los Angeles.

However, his Rancho San Rafael remained intact for less than a century. An unpaid mortgage led to the dissolution of the estate and to the founding of the city of Glendale.

You can read *Still Standing After All These Years: The Tongvas, the Mission and the Verdugos* at [glendalehistorical.org/still-standing](http://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing)



Katherine Yamada

THE  
**GLENDALE**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PRESIDENT**  
Steve Hunt

**VICE PRESIDENT, PRESERVATION ADVOCACY**  
John Schwab-Sims

**VICE PRESIDENT, OUTREACH**  
Jon Crook

**VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP**  
Hilary Sbei

**SECRETARY**  
Darren Merritt

**TREASURER**  
Kathryn Engel

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Kathryn Brunet  
Cathy Grayson  
Renée Leask  
David Meunier  
Ani Mnatsakanyan  
Mary Kay Prather  
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  
John LoCascio  
Marie Luft

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

\*Deceased

## Two Properties for Glendale Register



Webber House  
PHOTO: Victoria Lasken

**T**GHS is happy to report that the City has begun to process Glendale Register nominations after last year's hiatus. Glendale is home to several houses designed by master mid-century architect A. Quincy Jones. Built in 1950,

Webber House at 268 W. Kenneth is virtually identical to the "Sun Villa" house that Jones built for a developer in San Diego one year earlier, which won the American Institute of Architects' First Honor Award. This modern post and beam residence features walls of glass at the front and rear and clerestory windows at the side elevations, above solid walls of vertical wood siding. With this style, Jones sought to make high design affordable to postwar homeowners in a compact 1000-square-foot package. Deeply set back on its lot, the house is only partially visible from the street. Lucky TGHS Mad for Modern home tour-goers got to see it up close in 2015.

Glendale was once a city of Craftsman houses, and 1300 N. Maryland exemplifies that early-twentieth-century architectural tradition. As with many early properties in Glendale, the architect is unknown.



Tatum House

Tatum House was built circa 1908 and is one of the oldest residences within the pending Casa Verdugo Historic District. Distinctive features include a full-width front porch with horizontal wood cladding along the low porch wall and at the columns, a large front dormer with flared eaves and decorative knee braces, and windows with diamond-patterned muntins. At the owners' request, the magnificent Deodar Cedar in the front yard is protected along with the house. Tatum House was on TGHS's 2013 Casa Verdugo home tour.

TGHS congratulates these homeowners and thanks them for their commitment to preserving their historic homes.

# PRESERVATION

## Progress Continues with Historic Districts

One historic neighborhood is now much closer to joining Glendale's seven other historic districts.

Casa Verdugo passed a major milestone in completing circulation of its final petition to request a historic district overlay zone. The City of Glendale requires that 50% of property owners plus one must support designation in order to progress to the next step, which includes a final review and recommendation by the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions (and ultimately to City Council for a final vote). Casa Verdugo submitted a petition with signatures from over 75% of residents in favor of the district. The request for designation has been recommended by the HPC and the Planning Commission. If all goes well Council will vote to approve it on December 14.

South Cumberland Heights requested an extension for their final petition. Applicants have signatures from over 50% of residents, but they believe more residents will sign, as the pandemic has made gathering signatures more difficult. The HPC granted the extension.

There is also good news with the pending Bellehurst Historic District.

The City has selected a consultant to prepare the historic resources survey, which will encompass not only the pending historic district but also the entire Bellehurst tract, after several residents outside the district boundaries requested inclusion in the historic district. This survey will take up to eight months to complete. Next steps would include a community meeting to discuss the survey and an HPC review and recommendation before the final petition is circulated.

TGHS would like to acknowledge and thank the neighborhood volunteers who continue to advocate for these and other historic districts. With the passage of SB9, which will allow for lot splits and up to four units on an existing single-family parcel, there is concern about potential change in character and livability for traditional single-family neighborhoods. Historic districts are exempt from SB9.

If you have any questions about historic districts or would like information on the process to establish one, please send your inquiries to [preservation@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:preservation@glendalehistorical.org)



The eponymous casa of the pending Casa Verdugo Historic District



Elegant English Revival for the pending South Cumberland Heights District



Mudéjar-influenced Spanish charm in the pending Bellehurst Historic District

## TGHS Lawsuit Update

As was mentioned in the Fall newsletter, The Glendale Historical Society filed suit over the approval of a 12-unit residential project at 534 N. Kenwood Street, on the site of a historic Aeroplane Craftsman built in 1913. TGHS alleged that the proposed plans would have an adverse impact on the historic resource and that the City should prepare an Environmental Impact Report to identify feasible mitigation measures and analyze alternatives before it could reconsider approval.

At present, the administrative record is being prepared; this includes all the evidence submitted before or during the final hearing for the project. If no settlement between the parties is reached, a court date will be set after both sides agree on the record. TGHS will of course keep its membership posted.



### Let's Roll!

On June 24, TGHS partnered with DishDivvy, a Glendale-based food tech startup, to present How I Roll, a hands-on Zoom class. The event inaugurated a series that will highlight the cultural diversity of Glendale through food. So much of a culture's history is embedded in its cuisine, and every culture has some version of a roll. Presenters Chef Nessa and DishDivvy CEO and founder Ani Torosyan chose one of their favorites to teach: an authentic Vietnamese spring roll.

Chef Nessa, of Chinese descent, born in Viet Nam and raised in Los Angeles, says, "My food philosophy is simple: eat fresh, clean, high-quality whole foods as much as possible." The colorful, gorgeous ingredients she wrapped up for TGHS clearly attested to that!

Many thanks to Mary Kay Prather and Cathy Grayson, along with their hard-working committee members, for these two delicious and informative offerings.

## Breaking Bread with She Loves Collective

What do you do with 500 pounds of lavash, the thin flatbread recognized by UNESCO as originating in Armenia? If you are a group of Armenian American women artist/activists in Glendale, you create Her Relic, an evocative room made entirely of lavash – walls, furniture, objects of daily life and even pets – to honor traditional women's work.

On July 29, She Loves Collective member and avowed "artist" Ani Nina Oganyan introduced a large virtual TGHS audience to several examples of powerful work by the all-woman Collective, highlighted by a walk-through of the Her Relic installation at the Glendale Central Library's ReflectSpace Gallery.



# DOCTORS HOUSE

## West Family Visits Doctors House



Back row: Vicky West (step-mom), Ray West, Jr. (grandson of Dorothy and Ray), Chip West (great-grandson), Taylor Henderson (great-great-grandson). Front row: Chase, Ethan, Elijah and Chloe Rae West (great-great-grandchildren of Dorothy and Ray)  
PHOTO: Laura Crook

On July 24, the Doctors House opened briefly for some VIP guests: the family of Dorothy and Ray West.

The octogenarian Wests were major players in the restoration of the Doctors House during the 1980s and were known as the Mama and Papa Bear of their volunteer family. The Museum still displays an image of the Wests proudly showing off Dorothy's restoration of a toilet seat.



Dorothy West with her handiwork

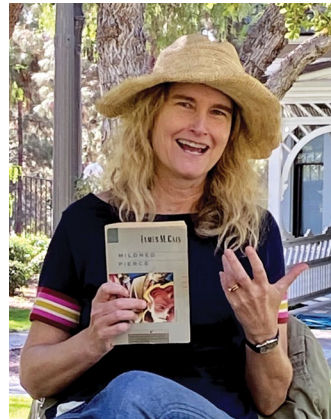
When their great-grandson, Raymond "Chip" West, asked to see the house with his family, Museum Director Laura Crook was happy to oblige. Dusting off her docent notes, she provided a tour of the house along with a glimpse into the West family past, while three generations marveled at the legacy left by their own Mama and Papa Bear.

## TGHS Inaugurates Book Club

The shady back lawn of the Doctors House provided the perfect spot to discuss the novel that begins, "In the spring of 1931, on a lawn in Glendale, California, a man was bracing trees."

On October 17, Catherine Jurca led TGHS's first book club meeting, on James M. Cain's 1941 classic noir novel, "Mildred Pierce."

Glendale and its signature Spanish Colonial Revival architecture play a major role in the story, both as setting and as metaphor. Cain's vivid writing brings 1930s Glendale to life; readers enjoyed visualizing the route from Glendale to Pasadena before the 134 was built and found the culturally approved "furniture suites" for a Spanish bungalow very amusing.



Cathy Jurca leads group discussion on Cain novel



Cathy Grayson and Laura Crook host their version of Mildred's Pie Wagon

Many thanks to Jurca for guiding an invigorating dialogue, and to Cathy Grayson and Laura Crook, not only for organizing the event but for bringing delicious pies as a post-meeting treat! Mildred's famous pies could not have been any better.

## "Is there a Doctor in the House?" TGHS Goes Ghost-Hunting

Victorian architecture became linked with the supernatural after the deadly Civil War, as many Americans held séances in their parlors in an attempt to contact lost loved ones. As Victorian houses fell out of fashion and into disrepair, they began to appear quite haunted!

Naturally, TGHS couldn't resist the idea of a ghost hunt at the Doctors House. Craig Owens, a local author and paranormal researcher, set up spirit detectors at the Museum and spent two evenings monitoring them, with TGHS volunteers Laura Crook, Jane Sheldon and Kathryn Brunet.

On October 21, TGHS held an online event to share the results. Though Owens' findings were inconclusive, his monitors did detect a few eerie and unexplained sounds, and the spooktacular night was enjoyed by all!

# WELCOME!

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021

### GRAND CENTRAL PATRON

Mary Kay Prather &  
Thomas Jacobsmeyer

### JEWEL CITY PATRON

Jany Davenport  
Cindy Dugger & Byron Taylor  
May Kwan & Jack Chicca  
Heather Norris & Sean Bersell

### VERDUGO PATRON

Pam & Jim Elyea  
Leticia Gonzalez &  
Ken Batchelor – U  
Coleen Novak &  
Daniel Garnett – N  
Maureen & Mario Palladini  
Scott Smissen & Don Snyder  
Gabiella Zecchetto &  
Blake Mills – N

### TROPICO

Tatevik & Vartan Achabashian  
Andrew Allison  
Jeri Anderson  
Kim Canon & Hector Montejano  
Pam & Bruce DeVine  
Kathryn & Sam Engel  
Anne & JC Galiana – U  
Carol & Richard Lee  
Zara Rostomian &  
Varand Balasarian  
Gloria & Jerome Sander

Nancy & Leonard Schaustal  
William Troiano

### HOUSEHOLD

Elizabeth & Richard Berry  
Jane Brown & Gary Hart  
Pauline Callahan  
Vicki Carlson & Don Bennett  
Robert Coshland  
Linda Dorn & Pat Reilly  
Victoria Durant  
Tosca Fasso &  
Christopher Ward  
Shelley Filian  
Miryam & Lou Finkelberg  
Sam Fishman – N  
Karen Goodman &  
Norman DuFort  
Farah Lavassani &  
Andrew Cohn  
Donald McPoland  
Robert Moon  
Nicole Myrick-Betts &  
Benjamin Betts  
Cathy & Bob Nicksin  
Laurel Whitcomb Perlman  
Heather Sabin &  
Joseph Lindner  
Elaine & Kurt Sawitskas  
Curtis & John Schwab-Sims  
Alice & Gregory Sheehy  
Victoria Shepherd &  
Mario Calderon

Helena Siwolop & Brent Rice  
Don Stults – N  
Elizabeth Versace &  
Francesca Werden – N

### INDIVIDUAL

Carol Attarian  
Cynthia Beres  
Ruth Campbell  
June Cheleden  
Jackie Davis  
Patricia Decima  
Peggy Durham  
Marie Fish  
Patrick Grant – U  
Kay Heitzman  
Christina Kasnoff – N  
Clint Lohr  
Marcy Jo Mandel  
Grace Meng – U  
Craig Owens  
Kim Paine  
Lulette Polintan  
Dave Ptach  
Alan H. Simon  
Cooper Sinclair  
Dorothy Sundbye – U  
Diane Thomas  
Mona Vasiloiu

### SENIOR

Minerva Astengo  
Patricia Cuesta

Diane Dixon  
Bruce Hale  
John C Hammell, Jr.  
Virginia Hatley  
Ernesto Holguin  
Rennie Hunter-Walz – N  
Erika Jarjour  
Brian Kaiser  
Norman Leavitt  
Fred Magrin  
Elvira Munoz – N  
Wendy Myers  
Laurel Neiswander  
Eileen Rose  
Carolyn Schiers  
Spooky Stevens  
Miriam Strysik  
Mitchell Styles – N  
Patricia Turner  
Elena Valencia – N  
Melinda Welch  
Stephan John Zupkas

### STUDENT

Michael Agasyan – N

*TGHS also welcomes 131  
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!

#### GOLD SPONSOR

Forest Lawn  
The Walt Disney Company

#### SILVER SPONSOR

G&C Properties

#### BRONZE SPONSOR

Avery Dennison Foundation  
Damon's Steakhouse  
deasy penner podley  
Glendale Arts  
Glendale Builders' Supplies  
HartmanBaldwin Design/Build  
Hollywood Production Center  
Los Angeles Breakfast Club  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

#### VIRTUAL EVENT SPONSOR

Adams Hill Neighborhood Association  
Alan Adams, The Window Surgeon  
Forest Lawn  
Michael Taylor, Regrout

### THANK YOU, PATRON MEMBERS!

#### GOODE PATRON

Catherine Jurca & Scott Fraser

#### SAN RAFAEL PATRON

Rima & Donnell Cameron  
Greg Grammer & Simon Wright  
Valerie & Bruce Merritt

#### GRAND CENTRAL PATRON

Mary Kay Prather & Thomas Jacobsmeyer  
Arlene Vidor

#### JEWEL CITY PATRON

Derek Catao & Mark Taraborelli  
Jany Davenport  
Guy DeConte & Ammar Kharouf  
Cindy Dugger & Byron Taylor  
Faline England & David Meunier  
Leslie & Robert Gordon  
Steve Hunt  
May Kwan & Jack Chicca  
Jennifer & Ian Marks  
Heather Norris & Sean Bersell  
Corinne Sánchez & Efren Manjarrez

#### VERDUGO PATRON

Alan Adams

Howard Anderson  
Wm. Richard Anderson  
Joyce Briscoe & Shirley Ann Hill  
The Bunt Family  
Carolyn & John Clauss  
Peggy Dionne  
Pam & Jim Elyea (History for Hire)  
Toni & Vince Espinoza  
Art Fisher & William Shepherd  
Leticia Gonzalez & Ken Batchelor  
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  
Stacey & Darren Merritt  
Coleen Novak & Daniel Garnett  
Maureen & Mario Palladini  
Joanna Pringle  
Devonna & Aaron Reichert  
Gloria & Jerome Sander  
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk  
Scott Smissen & Don Snyder  
Francesca & Lee Smith  
Chris & Steve Warheit  
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann  
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson  
Kendyl Young  
Gabiella Zecchetto & Blake Mills

## VIRTUAL EVENTS



### Hidden in Plain Sight

On September 30, Executive Director of the Museum of Neon Art Corrie Siegel took TGHS members on an illuminating virtual trip around Glendale and surrounding neighborhoods. A follow-up to last year's MONA presentation, "Hidden in Plain Sight" took a closer look at the signs and the businesses they advertised that shaped Glendale's diverse community.

Siegel provided historical context as to why neon signs have had such a tumultuous past in cities. Once representing signs of modernity, they later became known for their association with red-light districts, liquor stores and casinos, prompting many cities and business owners to scrap the hand-bent tubes

of glass for other pieces. The presentation challenged guests to reconsider pre-conceived notions of what deserves to be saved, protected and displayed.

Glendale signs on display at MONA include La Fonda Mexican Restaurant and Billy's Deli. Though their businesses are long gone, these objects still illuminate stories of Glendale's past.

If you missed any of TGHS's great events, you can access the archived videos at [glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events](https://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](https://facebook.com/GlendaleHistoricalSociety) AND [instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety](https://instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety)