



## FOUR PROPERTIES ADDED TO GLENDALE REGISTER

City Council has approved the addition of four properties to the Glendale Register: Glendale Central Library and three distinctive homes, each eligible for a Mills Act Contract. TGHS is delighted to see these properties on the Register, ensuring they will tell their stories to future generations.



### Asa and Ann Fanset House

This charming Craftsman bungalow was built in 1906 and is a highly intact example of the style. Clad in narrow horizontal beveled wood siding, the home has a steeply pitched side-gable roof with wide eaves, decorative elbow brackets and exposed notched rafter tails. The original owners, Asa and Ann Fanset, played significant roles in Glendale's early history. Asa was elected to the first Glendale Board of Trustees in 1906 and that same year was appointed as the first postmaster of the Glendale Post Office, when a stamp for a letter could be purchased for two cents.

### W.R. Burnett House

This 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival home, designed by local architect Arlos R. Sedgley, reads as a single story from the street. However, the lower level follows the downslope of the lot, creating a two-story rear façade. Most notably, it was the home of novelist and screenwriter W.R. Burnett, who penned several books and scripts while in residence, including "Scarface" and "High Sierra." The character Caesar "Rico" Bandello in Burnett's "Little Caesar," which made Edward G. Robinson a star, created a new archetype: the likable antihero, setting the standard for gangster novels and films for decades to come.



### Mahoney House

A highlight of TGHS's 2016 Spanish Splendor Home Tour, Mahoney House is indeed a splendid example of the classic Spanish Colonial Revival style. The 1932 home is a contributor to the North Cumberland Heights Historic District and retains many original features. The asymmetrical façade has a low-pitched, cross-gable clay tiled roof with boxed eaves and cornice detail. A rusticated stone surround and decorative iron railing enhance the picture window, and the original wooden garage door echoes the courtyard door with its six-over-six molded panels and medallion detail.

### Glendale Central Library

March 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the Central Library building, a magnificent product of its time that has successfully embraced the myriad changes required of today's modern libraries. Its value to residents comes from its role in Glendale's cultural life and the excellence of its Brutalist-style architectural design by Marvin Taff, who led the design team for Welton Becket & Associates. The South Glendale Historic Resource Survey identified the building as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources as well as the Glendale Register.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PHOTO: Matthew Letcher

**A**s we all know, Glendale has wonderful historic neighborhoods. However, for my husband and me, it was once a well-kept secret. We knew about the Americana and the Brand Boulevard of Cars, and that was all! When we began looking for a home, we came upon Glendale by accident and were astonished that it had

beautiful tree-lined streets with homes exuding period charm. We quickly focused our search in the Rossmoyne neighborhood. Six months later, with the purchase of our 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival home, we became Glendalians.

Walking around Rossmoyne, we see multi-cultural and generational diversity on full display. Young families are moving in, drawn to the leafy streets, period homes and neighborhood character. Many of our new neighbors have told us that those characteristics drew them to Glendale and to Rossmoyne.

Glendale's beautiful and diverse neighborhoods are civic assets; protecting their special characteristics is a primary goal of our organization. For that reason, TGHS worked to defeat an effort spearheaded by Councilmembers Elen Asatryan and Ara Najarian, voted on at the October 10 City Council meeting, to make it significantly more difficult for residents to join forces to protect the neighborhood qualities that inspired them to purchase their homes. As you will read on Page 4 of this newsletter, our efforts were successful.

During that meeting, Councilmember Najarian stated that maintaining and establishing historic districts is a covert method of continuing the abhorrent practice of redlining. I strongly disagree.

Redlining was a discriminatory practice of denying services, typically financial, to residents of certain areas based on their race or ethnicity. In force from the 1920s through the 1960s, redlining and restrictive covenants effectively barred African Americans and other minorities from purchasing homes in desirable neighborhoods, profoundly affecting the ability of these

families to build generational wealth.

The City of Glendale, to its credit, has acknowledged this shameful past and its lasting effects as we continue to combat racism in its many forms today. In an ongoing effort to develop tools to do so, the City is working on a historic context statement that will help us evaluate how past practices affected development of our neighborhoods. TGHS strongly supports this analysis.

***“Glendale’s beautiful and diverse neighborhoods are civic assets; protecting their special characteristics is a primary goal of our organization.”***

However, to state that current and proposed historic districts perpetuate these racist policies is nonsensical and not fact-based. The LA Conservancy has issued a study that has found historic districts as racially diverse as neighborhoods in non-historic districts. Also, on average and by price per square foot, homes in historic districts are not more expensive than those in surrounding neighborhoods, indicating that both are equally accessible for all income levels.

We can all be thankful that redlining and restrictive covenants are defunct. Councilmember Najarian's attempt to use redlining and, by extension, racism as a reason to hinder the formation of historic districts is self-serving and not supported by evidence. The greater harm of such a stated belief is that it trivializes past and present instances of true racism that tear at the fabric of our democracy.

TGHS will continue to fiercely defend the freedom of neighborhood residents to come together and start the historic districting process, if they so choose.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Schwab-Sims". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Schwab-Sims

**PRESIDENT**

John Schwab-Sims

**VICE PRESIDENT, PRESERVATION ADVOCACY**

John Schwab-Sims

**VICE PRESIDENT, OUTREACH**

Maria Sahakian

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**DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR**

Laura Crook

**NEWSLETTER LAYOUT, GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Matthew Letcher

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Scott Lasken

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS**

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Sean Bersell

*Past Presidents*  
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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






## Update of Glendale Preservation Score for City Councilmembers

Besides advocating for the preservation of Glendale's historic landmarks and districts, TGHS also supports new development projects that incorporate historic resources. Preservation and new development are not mutually exclusive; Glendale can get desperately needed new housing while maintaining context about Glendale's past for future generations.

To provide transparency and accountability, and to enable its members to determine if each City Councilmember supports this balance between development and preservation, TGHS has created a Glendale Preservation Score (GPS), based on each Councilmember's voting record on preservation issues. Each item voted on is ranked (low, medium, high) by the Preservation Advocacy Committee and approved by TGHS's Board. Those items are then included in the calculation and are weighted accordingly.

The score has been updated to account for five recent preservation votes, including four votes to include properties on the Glendale Register and the Historic District Streamline vote to keep the current signature threshold at 50% +1 with no additional signature verification.

Following are the current scores for each City Councilmember:

90% - 100%	Excellent		Paula Devine		
80% - 90%	Good			<b>89%</b>	
60% - 80%	Fair			Mayor Dan Brotman	<b>89%</b>
0% - 60%	Poor			Ara Najarian	<b>56%</b>
				Ardy Kassakhian	<b>72%</b>
			Elen Asatryan	<b>56%</b>	
			Ara Najarian	<b>56%</b>	

Changes in the score from the last update:

Dan Brotman +7  
Elen Asatryan +1  
Paula Devine +7  
Ardy Kassakhian +17  
Ara Najarian +1

TGHS encourages its members to offer feedback to Councilmembers on preservation issues, positive and negative.

Dan Brotman (dbrotman@glendaleca.gov)  
Elen Asatryan (easatryan@glendaleca.gov)  
Paula Devine (pdevine@glendaleca.gov)  
Ardy Kassakhian (akassakhian@glendaleca.gov)  
Ara Najarian (anajarian@glendaleca.gov)

# PRESERVATION

## Likely Contributor to Pending Bellehurst Historic District Illegally Demolished

A Spanish Colonial Revival bungalow, located at 1239 N. Everett in the pending Bellehurst Historic District, was illegally demolished in October. Built in 1925, it was one of the first homes constructed in the Highlands section of Bellehurst Park.

Permits allowed the owner to demolish and rebuild the garage and add construction to the rear of the home. Instead, the entire house was demolished. The City received calls reporting the damage, but too late to save the historic structure. A stop work order has been issued and the City is in discussions with the owner about the next steps, in light of the illegal demolition.

TGHS urges its members to do all they can to protect homes in our treasured historic districts. The City of Glendale has just implemented a new, streamlined process to report suspected illegal work. It is no longer necessary to know whether or not the work was permitted. If you see any suspicious activity, please send an email to [codecompliance@glendaleca.gov](mailto:codecompliance@glendaleca.gov). Be sure to include the property address and to document your report with photos. You may call (818) 548-3700 to check that they received your email.



## City Council Passes Historic District Streamline Ordinance

In a victory for TGHS and Glendale's neighborhoods, on October 10 the majority of City Council voted to streamline the historic district process and keep the 50% +1 petition threshold. Councilmember Elen Asatryan had proposed to implement signature verification and to increase the threshold to 75%, later reducing it to 67%. The Councilmember's position on historic districts contradicts her campaign statement, which you can read at <https://glendalehistorical.org/ask-the-candidates-2022>

Council also rejected the signature verification proposal, which would have added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy as forgery has never been an issue.

TGHS thanks Mayor Dan Brotman, Councilmember Paula Devine and Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian for their votes in support of a neighborhood's right to have its case heard by Council when a majority of homeowners request it.

Thanks as well to everyone who wrote letters of support to City Council and called in or attended the meeting. Your voice was heard and made a difference!

# E V E N T S

## What a Swell Party It Was!

The “Swanky Soiree at Barker House” on October 7 was a success in every way: a swell party with sellout attendance and a lively online/live auction that raised more funds for preservation than any previous TGHS Gala & Benefit!

TGHS presented awards in recognition of outstanding achievement in historic preservation to Lorna Vartanian and the Museum of Modern Art (MONA). Peter Rusch received the Marie Luft Award for Excellence in Stewardship of the Doctors House for his many years of service to the Museum.

Many thanks to Hector Montejano for opening his stunning Mid-century Modern home for the festivities; to dynamic emcee Chris Nichols; to sponsors Forest Lawn, The Walt Disney Company and G&C Properties; and to Co-Chairs Cathy Grayson and Greg Grammer and their industrious committee for a memorable evening.



With the Los Angeles city skyline as a backdrop, TGHS President John Schwab-Sims (at lectern) presents awards to Peter Rusch, Lorna Vartanian and Arlene Vidor, as Past President Steve Hunt joins in the applause.



HPC Commissioner Daniel Paul, Assemblymember Laura Friedman and emcee Chris Nichols  
PHOTO: Kara Elizabeth Photography



Laura Crook and Hilary Sbei getting into the spirit of the 1950s ambiance



Awardees Arlene Vidor (accepting on behalf of MONA), Peter Rusch and Lorna Vartanian  
PHOTO: Kara Elizabeth Photography



Simon Wright with Gala Co-Chairs Cathy Grayson and Greg Grammer  
PHOTO: Kara Elizabeth Photography



California State Senator Antony Portantino and TGHS President John Schwab-Sims  
PHOTO: Kara Elizabeth Photography



Rosie Garcia and Hector Montejano, the perfect hosts  
PHOTO: Kara Elizabeth Photography

# DOCTORS HOUSE

## Doctors House Officially Added to National Register



The Glendale Historical Society is honored to announce that on Sept 21, the Doctors House was officially added to the National Register of Historic Places.

TGHS collaborated with the City of Glendale and TGHS's retained historic consultant, Architectural Resources Group (ARG), in a year-long effort, working with ARG on the nomination and its presentation to the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC). As reported in the Fall issue of this newsletter, the SHRC unanimously found the Doctors House eligible for the National Register, sending the nomination to the Keeper of the Register for final approval and listing.

TGHS is working with the City on the design of a new plaque and has begun planning a key event to celebrate this honor early in the New Year.

Thanks to all who support the Doctors House, with special kudos to Museum Director Laura Crook and her

team of volunteers who spend countless hours leading tours and handling administrative duties. If you would like to join them at Glendale's newest National Register property, please send an email to [info@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:info@glendalehistorical.org)

## Cinema Under the Stars in Brand Park



AFS Board member Joe Furey interviews Suzanne Lloyd, who graciously introduced her grandfather's masterpiece to a rapt audience



Stephen Meek, AFS Board member; and Randy Carter, AFS Board Vice President

This past summer, TGHS joined with the Alex Film Society (AFS), Brand Associates and Retroformat Silent Films for a series of free screenings on the lawn in front of the Doctors House: Walt Disney's 1951 "Alice in Wonderland," Warner Bros.' 1945 "Mildred Pierce" and Harold Lloyd's 1923 "Safety Last!"

Rain postponed the presentation of the 100th anniversary screening of Lloyd's silent comedy masterpiece from September 30 to October 22, but it was worth the wait. As dusk descended and the lawn filled with picnickers, the screen showed rare footage of the Lloyd family at home and a delightful cartoon short, "Out of the Inkwell," followed by "Safely Last!" The artist's granddaughter, Suzanne Lloyd, introduced the silent film, which was enhanced by Cliff Retallick's original live music from the keyboard.

Thanks to all who worked together to make this delightful series possible. Numerous attendees were overheard expressing a hope that Cinema Under the Stars would become an annual event.

# WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS AUGUST - OCTOBER 2023

## JEWEL CITY PATRON

Cindy Dugger & Byron Taylor  
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Thomas McIntyre  
Eric Van der Werff & Family – U

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Anne & JC Galiana  
Leticia Gonzalez & Ken Batchelor  
Justin Hernandez & Chris Welch  
Ardy Kassakhian – N  
Zara Rostomian & Varand Balasanian  
Gloria & Jerome Sander  
Nancy & Leonard Schaustal  
The Schwab-Sims Family

## HOUSEHOLD

Vicki & Don Carlson  
Robert Coshland & Family  
Victoria Durant  
Tosca Fasso & Christopher Ward  
Mary Ferrell  
Shelley Filian  
Farah Lavassani & Andrew Cohn  
Nicole Myrick-Betts & Benjamin Betts  
Cathy & Bob Nicksin  
Halina & Brent Rice  
Heather Sabin & Josef Lindner  
Elaine & Kurt Sawitskas  
Victoria Shepherd & Mario Calderon  
Yvonne Sone  
Diane Thomas & Ray Frauenholz – U  
Lorraine Tretsven & Eileen Wallis  
The Whitcomb Perlman Family

## INDIVIDUAL

Vera Alkeine  
Carol Attarian  
Cynthia Beres  
Ruth Campbell  
Jackie Davis  
Patricia Decima  
Peggy Durham  
Cari Field – N  
Marie Fish  
Christina Kasnoff

Brenda Kearney  
Holly Keenan  
Clint Lohr  
Marcy Jo Mandel  
Grace Meng  
Craig Owens  
Kim Paine  
Lulette Polintan  
Dave Ptach  
Leanne Reynolds  
Frank Reza  
Shant Sahakian  
Alan Simon  
Kimberly Turner  
Mona Vasiliou

## SENIOR

Minerva Astengo  
Christine Bisesi – N  
David Boyd – N  
John Campbell  
David F. Eisenberg  
Joseph W Gedeon – N  
Bruce Hale  
Shaye Harber  
Virginia Hatley  
Dolores Hawkes  
Hernan Hernandez  
Ernesto Holguin  
Erika Jarjour

Christina Johnson  
Stephanie Landregan  
Norman Leavitt  
John Martin – N  
Yvette Minassian  
Elvira Munoz  
Wendy Myers  
Charlie O'Hanlon  
Marta Phillips – N  
Eileen Rose  
Craig Shadburn – N  
Margo Shadburn – N  
Lowayne Shieh  
Spooky Stevens  
Miriam Strysik  
Mitchell Styles  
Patricia Turner  
Elena Valencia  
Melinda Welch

## STUDENT

Michael Agasyan  
Haig Aintablian

*TGHS also welcomes 138  
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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Forest Lawn

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

## THANK YOU, PATRON MEMBERS!

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Dana Doyle & Erik Van der Werff

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Art Fisher & William Shepherd  
Cathy & Jon Grayson  
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Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch  
Anita & Russell Harnden  
Nancy Hathaway (The Wine Vault)  
Wendy Juleff  
Jessica & Christian Lander  
Carol & Richard Lee  
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk  
Stacey & Darren Merritt  
Jim Newman & Michael Williams  
Coleen Novak & Daniel Garnett  
Maureen & Mario Palladini  
Vic Pallos  
Mary Kay Prather & Thomas Jacobsmeyer  
Devonna & Aaron Reichert  
Scott Smissen & Don Snyder  
Francesca & Lee Smith  
Karin & Dennis van Bremen  
Chris & Steve Warheit  
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann  
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson  
Gabiella Zecchetto & Blake Mills

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2024

### CERAMICS OF GLENDALE

New Special Exhibit at the Doctors House, Brand Park

Museum Director Laura Crook reports that the recently closed special exhibit, "Architecture as Art," was an enormous success, "engaging the community and members who had not been to the Museum in a while" and resulting in the sale of more than 30 pieces of art!

Crook's next curatorial offering, "Ceramics of Glendale," will display works of such notable artisans as Avis Wright, AC Davey, Genevieve Tully and many others.

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Time TBA

### VICTORIAN EASTER

Fun for all ages!

Old-fashioned games and entertainment  
The famous Easter Egg Hunt  
Doctors House Museum & Gazebo  
Brand Park



PHOTO: Courtesy Mike Lawler

Don't miss this episode of Katherine Yamada's ongoing saga on TGHS's website:

### "STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PART IX"

The Oak of Peace, the LA County Sheriff, Tiburcio Vásquez and the Crescenta Valley, 1840s to 1870s

After California became a state in 1850, law enforcement in this area was provided by the LA County Sheriff. A few years later, the notorious bandit Tiburcio Vásquez arrived.

<https://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing-9>

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)