



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE

SUMMER 2012



Photo: Victoria Lasken

Annual Meeting To Be Held at the Landmark Alex Theatre

Mark your calendar! Official invitations will be mailed in July, but be sure to save Saturday, August 18, 5:00 -7:00 pm. Members and guests are invited to our Summer Social & Annual Meeting in the forecourt of the historic Alex Theatre.

We hope you will join us for this event, which will include champagne and tasty refreshments, election of new Board Members, tours of the Alex and raffle opportunities as we rub elbows and toast Glendale's past, present and future.

An additional highlight will include the unveiling of conceptual drawings of the new Nordstrom building and exciting features of a "historic" passageway at the Americana at Brand – the result of TGHS's efforts to honor the 1928 Mission Revival building and incorporate the brick façade of the former recording studio into the design.

TGHS would like to thank Glendale Arts, Americana at Brand and Far Niente restaurant for helping to underwrite this very special evening. Stay tuned, and see you then!



Photo: Victoria Lasken

Home Tour to Highlight Glendale's Golden Age

Save the date! The Glendale Historical Society is pleased to present its annual Fall Home Tour, Glendale's Golden Age: Distinctive Homes of the 1920s & 1930s, which will take place on Sunday, September 30, 2012, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Sponsored by G&C Properties and Glendale Adventist Medical Center, this year's Home Tour will showcase a selection of magnificent Period Revival homes that emerged when Glendale was billed as one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Tickets are \$32 per person (\$22 for TGHS members) if purchased in advance of the tour. Online ticket sales will begin in August and will be available through Glendale Arts at www.glendalearts.org.

Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour at the historic Alex Theatre for \$37 per person (\$27 for TGHS members).

If you are interested in being a volunteer docent on tour day, please contact us at: events@glendalehistorical.org.



TGHS Hearts The Alex Theater

TGHS was instrumental in saving the landmark Alex Theatre in the 1990s. Glendale Arts, which operates the Alex, conducted an "I Heart Glendale Arts" fundraising campaign in March. As we often hear from arts organizations, ticket sales do not cover all of the costs involved in operating a venue, and historic buildings generate additional expenses. TGHS created a fundraising team and sent out an appeal to members and supporters on our email distribution lists, raising \$1460. If this message did not reach you, contributions can still be made to Glendale Arts, 116 West California, Glendale 91203, identifying the donation as part of the TGHS team. Many thanks to all who donated! So far, Glendale Arts has raised more than \$30,000.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Photo: Simon Wright

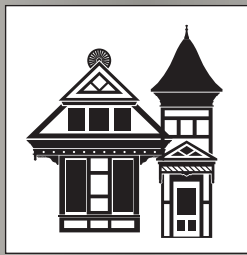


After nearly 33 years and as promised in our last publication, the Board is thrilled to officially unveil The Glendale Historical Society's new logo. We have also taken the opportunity to refresh the design of the newsletter.

TGHS has previously used an artist's rendering of the Doctors House on printed materials. While the artwork is a beautiful image of the Doctors House, it does not work as a logo – not least because much of the detail is lost when the image is reproduced in a smaller format on letterhead or advertising materials.

While featuring the Doctors House in our logo may have been an obvious choice, the journey has been far from straightforward. Since my election to the Board of Directors in 2007, there have been many discussions about both the need for a logo and what the design should feature. There is a wealth of architectural history in Glendale that offered a number of potential design options – the Spanish Colonial Revival train station and the Moorish style of the Brand Library were among the many potential choices that were considered.

Despite the range of buildings that could have been used as the basis for our logo, the Board kept coming back to the Doctors House. After all, it was the threatened demolition of this architectural gem in 1979 that sparked the formation of TGHS and gave birth to the preservation movement in Glendale. Embracing the history of the foundation of TGHS, but with a renewed and sharp focus on our preservation and education efforts, it seemed only fitting that the Doctors House remain the symbol of TGHS.



Our new logo was brilliantly designed – on a pro-bono basis – by TGHS Board member Scott Lasken (Stratagem Design, Inc.), and was enthusiastically and unanimously adopted by the Board. As you can see in the illustrations above, the new logo picks up key character-defining elements of the Queen Anne-Eastlake Victorian style of the Doctors House and utilizes the house's paint colors.

While our look may have changed, our mission remains the same: celebrating and preserving Glendale's history and architectural heritage.

Here's to the next chapter in the life of our organization and our community!

Regards,

Greg Grammer

Do We Have Your Email?

The Glendale Historical Society regularly sends out information about upcoming events and preservation issues via email. If you are not receiving these and would like to, please email tghs@glendalehistorical.org with the request to "please add me to your email list."

TGHS will never sell, rent or share your information.

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Greg Grammer & Simon Wright
Nancy Hathaway/The Wine Vault
Peter Rusch & Scott Halloran

Disney Hires Consultants for Grand Central Air Terminal

We are pleased to report that The Walt Disney Company has retained the services of Frederick Fisher & Partners as architects and Historic Resources Group as the historical consultant for the rehabilitation of the Grand Central Air Terminal.

The Grand Central Air Terminal played a key role in the development of aviation in the United States and became the premier spot for air travel in Southern California.

Disney has owned the property since 1997, and, as part of its agreement with the City of Glendale, is required to rehabilitate the 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival-Art Deco landmark according to United States Department of Interior standards and list it on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is expected that plans will be presented to the city's Historic Preservation Commission by early next year.



Photo: Arlene Vidor

Rehabilitation of Brand Library Begins

The historic Brand Library, which is housed in the grand "El Miradero" mansion that early Glendale developer Leslie C. Brand built in 1903, is now closed for renovation and is expected to re-open in early 2014.

Gruen Associates, working in partnership with Offenhauser/Mekel Architects, has been retained by the City of Glendale to carry out the \$8 million project, which includes improved ADA accessibility, replacement of the HVAC system, a seismic retrofit and restoration of portions of the mansion to its original condition. Landscape improvements will also be made to better highlight the landmark building's architectural features.

El Miradero/Brand Library is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

Glendale Courthouse Project Reconsidered

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has re-circulated sections of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed new Glendale Courthouse project. Although the project's financial feasibility is being reassessed in light of the state's current fiscal crisis, the AOC was obligated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to address comments received during the initial public comment period.

The 1959 Courthouse, designed by architect Arthur Wolfe, is one of the most significant and distinctive examples of mid-20th century Modern architecture in Glendale and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Resources.

In response to concerns raised by TGHS and the Los Angeles Conservancy, the AOC has rejected the Diamond Honda site as a possible alternative location for a new courthouse and has proposed three viable re-use alternatives that would maintain the Glendale County Courthouse in its current location and retain key historic features of the existing building.

In response to the re-circulated sections, TGHS has endorsed the adoption of a full re-use preservation alternative (Strategy 3), which would retain the building's massing, the

Broadway and Glendale Avenue façades, interior public concourses, stairways, terrazzo flooring, serpentine benches, lighting fixtures and original courtrooms, with the Court's additional spatial and functional requirements accommodated in a sensitively designed addition to the south of the existing facility. This would provide the most economical and sustainable solution to the Court's needs, while preserving the original courthouse's integrity and eligibility for the National Register.

TGHS's Preservation Advocacy Committee will continue to monitor developments in the proposed courthouse project.



Photo: Victoria Lasken

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Two Proposed Historic Districts Advance

The proposed Rossmoyne and North Cumberland Heights Historic Districts are moving toward establishment. TGHS has supported both districts.

Rossmoyne

The Glendale Historic Preservation Commission recommended the establishment of the Rossmoyne Historic District on May 24. The proposed district would be the largest in Glendale to date, covering more than 500 residences.

A 2011 survey of the area found that, in Rossmoyne, “excellent timing, location, planning, capital investment, marketing, and execution combined to create a rare example of the ideal neighborhood in the greater Los Angeles area during the 1920s.” The survey stated that the neighborhood “showcases a delightful variety of Period Revival architectural styles from the height of their popularity” and “conveys a distinctive sense of historic and architectural cohesiveness.”

The survey also noted that the neighborhood is “highly intact, with about 80 percent of properties in the district qualifying as contributors.”

Petitions expressing support for designation by 71% of the properties in the proposed district were submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission.

On June 6, the city’s Planning Commission also endorsed designation of the district. The recommendation to establish the Rossmoyne Historic District is expected to be presented to the City Council in July

North Cumberland Heights

In March, the Historic Preservation Commission approved the circulating of petitions in support of the creation of the North Cumberland Heights Historic District. The proposed district is generally bounded by the east side of Grandview Avenue, the south side of Cumberland Road and the north side of West Mountain Street and incorporates portions of Ben Lomond Drive, Cleveland Road, Crestview Drive, Idlewood Road and Matilija Road. It encompasses 179 single-family homes, primarily built between 1914 and 1953.

The proposed district includes a mix of homes in many different styles, including Craftsman, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Monterey Revival, English Tudor Revival, American Colonial Revival, Ranch and Modern.

Notable Glendale residents Casey Stengel, Robert Jensen (builder of the much-missed Palace-Grand Shops, a.k.a., “Jensen’s Arcade”) and noted mystery writer Charlotte Armstrong lived in homes within the proposed district. Proponents of the district have until September to submit signed petitions representing a majority of the properties in the proposed district.

DOCTORS HOUSE

With the end of the academic year in sight, elementary school students throughout Glendale have been eagerly attending Doctors House school tours. Special docents Isabelle Meyer and Judy Cabrera recently escorted hundreds of third-graders through the museum in groups of ten to learn about the Victorian style of living. While some are inside, students experience firsthand the chores performed at the turn of the century, such as washing clothes with a washboard, beating rugs and watering plants with a big watering can. Others play Victorian games like croquet, hoop rolling and “Graces,” and some carefully draw the house itself. Many children and teachers say it is their favorite field trip of the year.

In cooperation with Glendale’s focus on the arts, TGHS and the Doctors House co-sponsored an art show with the Foothill Artists League on June 17 on the lawn in front of the Doctors House Museum. The group is known for painting, studying and showing their work together in the Foothill area for a number of years. They are also individually associated with local art associations, “plein air” painting groups and art galleries. This was the first time the Doctors House was open on Father’s Day.

The Doctors House will be closed during the month of July for regular upkeep, repairs and new docent training. Those interested in helping with events or tours please call 818-242-7447, or visit the TGHS website and click on the Doctors House link.
by Peter Rusch

THE DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM

will be closed during the month of July for regular upkeep, repairs, and new docent training.

HISTORIC RESOURCES



Photo: Julius Shulman, "Ise Homestead by Gordon Steen," 1979. Copyrighted. Used by Permission.

The newest addition to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources is the award-winning, architecturally unique Steen House (Ise Homestead), built in 1979. Located in Chevy Chase Canyon, this rustic and woodsy—yet modern—interpretation of a 16th-Century Japanese country house rests atop massive Douglas fir beams supported by ten Ponderosa pine poles.

Steen House (Ise Homestead) retains its original architectural integrity and aesthetic. The exterior is clad in vertical Redwood siding, and the roof is covered with Japanese-inspired tiles. The house can only be reached by a wooden bridge that connects to a deck that wraps around the entire house, and the deck is covered by deep eaves. The interior of the home features wood throughout and is illuminated in part by multiple skylights.

The house merges seamlessly with its environment, hanging over a ravine and surrounded by mature oaks. So sensitive was the architect/builder to the natural setting that he constructed the roof around a large oak branch (since removed) that projected through an aperture at the south eave and he joggled the deck of the house around the main trunk of the tree.

Designed and built by Gordon Steen, who owned a company that sold kits for “pole houses,” this was the first pole house Steen built. He lived in it for approximately one year.

The Steen House (Ise Homestead) is the 94th entry on the Glendale Register.

RECENT EVENTS

Historical Bike Ride

On May 12, TGHS joined volunteers from Walk Bike Glendale, Montrose Patch and the City of Glendale to lead a historical bike ride in Montrose. The 57 riders of all ages met at the Montrose Bike Shop on Honolulu Avenue. Community Services & Parks Department granted rare access to Rockhaven Sanitarium, where Historic Preservation Commission Member Michael Morgan provided historical background. Some of the many other stops included the La Crescenta Woman's Club, Crescenta Valley Park and Anawalt Lumber.



Photo by Justin A. Klein © 2012



Photo: Victoria Lasken

Forest Lawn Tour

Fifty people attended the sold-out program "Beyond the Gates: Exploring the Art and Architecture of Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Glendale" on June 10. Churches, statuary, stained glass and portions of the Great Mausoleum were included on this three-hour bus tour. Due to the popularity of the experience, we hope to offer it again next year.

Many thanks to Forest Lawn staff for their extensive participation in planning and organizing such a successful event!

Taste of Spain

Members enjoyed Taste of Spain on April 29 at the 1927 Spanish Colonial Revival home of Richard and Elizabeth Berry.



Photo: Victoria Lasken



Photo: Victoria Lasken

Landmark This, Glendale!

Jay Platt, city planner, explains to attendees how they can list their properties on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. The May 16 event was held in the historic Adams Square Building.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: MARCH 2012 - MAY 2012

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Rima & Donnell Cameron - R
Joseph M. Gossett - R
Barry Switzer - R

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Steven Chapman &
Ricardo Ordoñez - R

TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Catherine Jurca - N
Larry Tison - R
Kelly O'Connor - R

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Richard & Elizabeth Berry - N
John & Barbara Conry - R
Timothy Foy - R
Jacqueline Malouf - N
Dennis Tesdell - R

DUAL (\$40)

Liz Avila - N
Ben Betts - R
Yeprem & Ninet Davoodian - N
Jim & Fernanda Dorsey - N
Dr. Alex & Carla German - N
Brett Godwin - N
Russell & Anita Harnden - N
Shanna & Scott Igoe - R
John & Kimiko Mayhew - R
Donald McPoland - R
Daniel McQueen &
Alvaro Cardenas - N
Vizma Sarnoff - N
Sharon & William Weisman - R

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Frank Andrew Allison - N
Ute Baum - R
Teri Deaver - R
Nadia DeWees - N
Teri Hendrich - N
Dorothy Knisley - R
Joan Morris - R
Christine O'Brien - N
Carol Rossow - R

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Ross Adams - R
Helen Bartosik - R
Patricia Bates - R
Marguerite DeBey - R
Peggy Dionne - N
Daniel Fagan - R
Sandra Haggerty - N
Robin Lee Hansen - R
Claudia Jefferies - N
Richard Johnson - R
Curt & Judee Kendall - R
Hortensia Nunez - N
Madison Leigh Paine - R
Taylor Effie Paine - N
Mary Savarese - N
Don Savarese - N
Mary Underwood - R

PAST PRESIDENTS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Deborah Dentler
Carole Dougherty
Andrea Humberger
John LoCascio
Marie Luft
Steve Preston
Bill Shepherd
David Smith
Arlene Vidor

N - New Member
R - Renewing Member
U - Upgrading Member

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

Join The Glendale Historical Society and Support Historic Preservation in Our Community

THE SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT tax-exempt organization, and we encourage you to join and volunteer. Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to:

The Glendale Historical Society, PO Box 4173, Glendale CA 91202-0173

Brand Patron (\$5,000)

Goode Patron (\$2,500)

San Rafael Patron (\$1,000)

Jewel City Patron (\$500)

Verdugo Patron (\$250)

Tropico Supporter (\$100)

Sustaining (\$50)

Dual (\$40)

Individual (\$25)

Individual Senior

or Student (\$15)

Nonprofit (\$35)

Nonprofit organizations are encouraged to join TGHS as Associate Members (No voting rights)

Name Phone

Street Address

City/Zip Code Email Address

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Preservation Advocacy

Historic Districting

Fundraising

Special Events/Tours

Outreach/Education

Doctors House Volunteers

Historic Research/Surveys

Archiving/Organizing

Membership/Outreach

2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 26 • THURSDAY

THE WONDERFUL MAGICAL WORLD
OF NEON SIGNS

Eric Lynxwiler

Central Library

7:00 pm

FREE

AUGUST 18 • SATURDAY

SUMMER SOCIAL & ANNUAL MEETING

Alex Theatre

5:00 – 7:00 pm

FREE

SEPTEMBER 30 • SUNDAY

ANNUAL HOME TOUR

GLENDALE'S GOLDEN AGE:

DISTINCTIVE HOMES of the 1920s & 1930s

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tickets on sale in August!



THE
GLENDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment to benefit The Glendale Historical Society. The Endowment was initiated by former TGHS treasurer Richard Montgomery. Since his death, a number of contributions have been made to our endowment fund. An especially large one was made to it by bequest of former president Dr. Robert Newcomb. An anonymous donor contributes yearly.

Please consider making a bequest in your will to the Community Foundation to benefit TGHS, or make donations at any time.

Community Foundation of the Verdugos

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Email: info@cfverdugos.org