



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE

FALL 2012



Photo: Victoria Lasken

A Tudor Revival house in the Rossmoyne Historic District



Photo: Victoria Lasken

The Casey Stengel House in the North Cumberland Heights Historic District

TWO MORE HISTORIC DISTRICTS!

Two more historic district overlay zones – Rossmoyne and North Cumberland Heights – have been created in Glendale in recent months, bringing the number of historic districts in the city to five. Historic districts require the city to preserve a neighborhood's architectural integrity and historic character. Changes to the facades of homes in historic districts need to meet established preservation standards and be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

The preservation standards both protect the neighborhood from inappropriate renovations that would diminish its character and provide homeowners and their architects and contractors a greater degree of certainty how to design changes to the exteriors of their homes. The Glendale Historical Society actively supported the designation of both of the new historic districts.

ROSSMOYNE

In July, the Glendale City Council unanimously approved the Rossmoyne Historic District, the culmination of an incredible community effort.

The designation – supported by more than 70% of property owners – establishes Glendale's fourth and largest historic residential district to date, encompassing 504 parcels in the Rossmoyne neighborhood, located north of the 134 Freeway and west of Glendale Boulevard.

Developed in the 1920s and 30s, the neighborhood features some of Glendale's most distinctive architecture in a variety of period revival homes, including Spanish Colonial, Tudor Revival and French-inspired designs. Developed by the Haddock-Nibley Company beginning in 1923, the neighborhood was also one of the City's first residential planned communities, with curving streets, underground utilities and decorative streetlights – all which make Rossmoyne such a desired neighborhood today.

Rossmoyne met six of the nine possible criteria for a historic district and 82% of the homes are considered contributors.

NORTH CUMBERLAND HEIGHTS

The neighborhood of North Cumberland Heights will be designated as the City of Glendale's fifth historic district as a result of a City Council vote in October.

The historic 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 1923 and 1953.

The district includes a mix of homes in many different the 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.

North Cumberland Heights met five of the nine possible criteria for a historic district, and 78% of homes in the neighborhood were considered contributors. Creation of the district was supported by 73% of the property owners in the area.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Simon Wright

I don't know about you, but I certainly had a hard time letting go of those last few glorious days of summer – which might explain why our Fall Newsletter has arrived later than usual!

And as the season changes, so does the composition of our Board of Directors. While Marty Bracciotti, Scott Lasken, Joe Selph and John LoCascio have completed their terms on the Board, I am pleased to say they will continue to play an active role in helping to fulfill our mission of celebrating and preserving

Glendale's history and architectural heritage.

Marty served on the Board for two years as Secretary and coordinated our popular Historic Bike Rides. His passion and wittiness at our monthly Board meetings will be missed, but I look forward to his continued participation at our events.

Scott is a creative genius, as exhibited by the incredible job he has done over the last two years in creating our new logo, updating our newsletter and giving the Society's image a much-needed face-lift. Fortunately, he will continue to serve TGHS behind the scenes, generously donating his time and talent in designing our promotional materials.

Joe also served on the Board for two years and was instrumental in the success of our Taste of Spain membership drive and first-ever tour of Forest Lawn Memorial Park. I am thrilled (and relieved) that he will continue to be involved in planning these two signature events.

John was first elected to the Board in 2003 and served as President for three years, from 2008 to 2011. With his education and professional background, he has been an unbelievable asset to the Society and has done amazing work in guiding and growing the organization. Lucky for us, John will continue to play a crucial role in our preservation advocacy efforts.

I will miss their unique contributions to the Board, but am excited to be working with our newly elected Directors: Jamie Anderson, Brian Haworth (Secretary) and Vrej Mardian, who bring with them a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. I am proud to be part of such a dedicated and capable team that also includes continuing Board Members Victoria Lasken (Vice President), Sean Bersell (Treasurer), Marcia Hanford (Events Committee Chair) and Margaret Hammond, as well as Sonia Montejano and Peter Rusch – who take such wonderful care of the Doctors House and serve as Director and Assistant Director, respectively.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to those who purchased tickets to our Fall Home Tour, as well as our sponsors, G&C Properties and Glendale Adventist Medical Center, program advertisers, dedicated docents, volunteers and generous owners of the tour homes. This year's "Glendale's Golden Age" tour, our single largest fundraiser, was indeed a golden one. It was by far the most successful in our 33-year history, and we simply could not have done it without everyone's support. Thank you!

Regards,

Greg Grammer

TGHS Now Offers Historic District Grants

At the Society's Annual Meeting in August, President Greg Grammer unveiled a new TGHS grant program that will provide funds to help defray the cost of the city application fee that applicants for historic districts must pay when embarking upon the process. These fees recently increased significantly, and TGHS does not want costs to be a deterrent to future neighborhoods considering designation.

For more information, contact Greg Grammer at greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org.

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Greg Grammer
greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Victoria Lasken
victoria.lasken@glendalehistorical.org

SECRETARY

Brian Haworth
bhaworth@glendalehistorical.org

TREASURER

Sean Bersell
sean.bersell@glendalehistorical.org

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Jamie Anderson
jamieanderson@glendalehistorical.org

Margaret Hammond

Marcia Hanford
marcia.hanford@glendalehistorical.org

Vrej Mardian
VrejMardian@glendalehistorical.org

DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR

Sonia Montejano
sonia.montejano@glendalehistorical.org

DOCTORS HOUSE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Peter Rusch
peterrusch@yahoo.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Scott Lasken
scott@stratagemdesigninc.com

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Carole Dougherty
czdougherty@sbcglobal.net

Patron Members

JEWEL CITY PATRONS

Rima & Donnell Cameron
Guy Deconte & Ammar Kharouf
Joseph M. Gossett
Heather Norris & Sean Bersell
Annie & Dennis Reed
Barry Switzer

VERDUGO PATRONS

David B. Ahern
Steven Chapman & Ricardo Ordoñez
Milena Dostanich
Greg Grammer & Simon Wright
Nancy Hathaway/The Wine Vault
Peter Rusch & Scott Halloran
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Meet the Historical Society's New Board Members



Jamie Anderson

Jamie Anderson has been a resident of Glendale since 2001 and played a key role in the success of the 2011 Home Tour. He also served on the 2012 Home Tour Committee.

Jamie is the CEO of Parker-Anderson/Educational Services for Young People, which provides after-school programming for elementary schools in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Parker-Anderson provides GATE enrichment programs for most of Glendale's elementary schools.

He and his wife Polly live in a 1928 Tudor Revival home located in the Ard Eevin Highlands Historic District. They have two daughters, aged 19 and 22.



Brian Haworth

As an urban planner, Brian Haworth appreciates the value of historic properties and how they add to a neighborhood's vibrancy, character and legacy. That's why he joined The Glendale Historical Society - to help play an active role in preserving Glendale's many historic resources and architectural styles that reflect the rich roots of the community.

Brian holds degrees from UCLA and UC Irvine. He resides in the Bellehurst Park area of the Rossmoyne-Mountain neighborhood and spends his free time - along with his partner Derek - renovating their 1927 Spanish Colonial Revival home.



Vrej Mardian

Vrej Mardian served on the City of Glendale's Historic Preservation Commission from 2005 to 2011, including two terms as Chair. He was involved in the review, evaluation and adoption of the City's award-winning historic district guidelines. He also reviewed and supported the approval of the City's first three historic districts, as well as numerous individual properties to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

He is a 38-year resident of Glendale and is the president of a local design, planning and engineering firm, Mardian and Associates, Inc. Vrej has 26 years of experience in residential and commercial design, in addition to construction. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI ARC).



Jo-Ann Fabrics store, formerly Alexander's Market

Alexander's Market to be Demolished

On October 30, the Glendale City Council approved the demolition of the Alexander's Market building over the objections of TGHS. The structure, located at 200 W. Wilson Street, is currently a Jo-Ann Fabrics store and will be replaced by a condominium building.

Built in 1938 and designed by Stiles O. Clements of the renowned architectural firm Morgan, Walls & Clements, the old Alexander's Market building is one of the best remaining examples of Streamline Moderne commercial architecture in the City of Glendale. Morgan, Walls & Clements are responsible for many Los Angeles landmarks, including the Wiltern, Mayan and El Capitan theatres.

In 2007, the City approved a mixed-use project for the site, known as "The Alexander." The Society did not oppose the 2007 project because it incorporated key architectural elements of the existing building into the new design. The project never broke ground, however, and was abandoned shortly after the global financial crisis.

Continued on page 6



Glendale's Post Office may be targeted for closure and sale. The 1934 Italian Renaissance style building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Historic Glendale Post Office May Face Closure

With an annual operating deficit in excess of \$8.5 billion, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is looking to shut down almost ten percent of its post office sites throughout the country. Unfortunately the historic Glendale Post Office, located at 313 East Broadway, may be one of the structures targeted for closure.

Built in 1934 and designed by George M. Lindsay, the Broadway Post Office is an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance style. The sumptuously decorated interior includes marble walls and flooring and ornamental bronze grille and panel work. The public lobby also features painted cornices and a remarkable ceiling of painted panels with relief decorations.

The good news is that the building is listed on both the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places, which means that the building is protected. In fact, under Federal law (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act), the USPS is required to abide by national preservation laws by placing an enforceable preservation restriction or condition on the sale of the building.

TGHS has been in touch with City officials and will continue to reach out to the USPS, urging them to keep the Broadway Post Office open. It is our understanding that the USPS will hold a community meeting prior to the disposal or sale of the building. At such time, TGHS will encourage its members and supporters to speak out against the closure of the Post Office. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

RECENT EVENTS



Golden Age Home Tour - A Huge Success

More than 600 individuals from all over Southern California came out for “Glendale’s Golden Age” home tour on September 30, making it the most popular home tour in the Society’s 33-year history.

This year’s home tour, sponsored by G&C Properties and Glendale Adventist Medical Center, featured houses that exemplify Glendale’s golden age of architecture and serve as a reminder that great design and quality craftsmanship produced not just residences that are beautiful to behold, but structures that were built to last for generations.

Four of the homes on the tour were some of Glendale’s grandest examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which was the dominant architectural style throughout the region in the early 20th century. Also featured were a remarkable Tudor Revival home, a style which was popular in Glendale during the 1920s and 1930s, and a fanciful Storybook-style courtyard.

TGHS greatly appreciates the owners of the houses on the tour, who so graciously opened the doors of their magnificent homes. By sharing their homes with the public, the homeowners allow TGHS to promote a greater appreciation of Glendale’s architectural heritage and raise awareness of the need for preserving this rich legacy.

The annual home tour would not be possible without the contributions of dozens of volunteers who donated their time to make “Glendale’s Golden Age” home tour such an overwhelming success.



TGHS Members Enjoy an Evening at the Alex

The historic Alex Theatre was the venue for TGHS’ Summer Social and Annual Meeting on August 18. Approximately 120 members and guests heard reports on the Society’s activities, took tours of the theater led by former TGHS president Andrea Humberger, sampled food and wine, participated in a raffle, and enjoyed a summer afternoon as the sun set on the newly refurbished theater facade and its historic neon signage.

President Greg Grammer recapped events and accomplishments of the past year that contribute to preserving Glendale’s history and architectural heritage.

TGHS presented Awards to several individuals and groups. TGHS Immediate Past President John LoCascio was presented with the Zelia Blanton Award, which is given for making a significant impact in our community through extraordinary involvement and continued dedication in advancing the cause of historic preservation. Grammer noted that LoCascio served for three years as TGHS President, helped curate the Society’s annual home tours, and played a critical role in the City of Glendale’s adoption of its Historic District Overlay Zone Ordinance, which established the process for the creation of historic districts.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles was recognized for outstanding achievement in historic preservation for its architecturally sensitive additions and good stewardship of their California Register-eligible property at 346 North Central Avenue.

George Seeley Jr. received an award for rehabilitation work at the historic Seeley’s Furniture Building at the intersection of Brand Boulevard and San Fernando Road, an outstanding example of adaptive reuse.

Glendale’s first four historic districts – Ard Eevin Highlands, Cottage Grove, Rossmoyne and Royal Boulevard – were honored with Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Continued on page 6

UPDATES



95th Property Added to Glendale Register

Built in 1932, this two-story Tudor Revival residence in the Royal Canyon neighborhood is the 95th site to be included on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. The property was found to possess many character-defining features of the Tudor Revival style and to have been built with outstanding attention to design, materials, detail and craftsmanship.

CONTINUED

Alexander's Market to be Demolished

Continued from page 4

The condominium that was approved in October is substantially different from the project that was approved in 2007. Notably, it does not incorporate any of the existing Alexander's Market building and the building will be entirely demolished.

TGHS, therefore, wrote to members of the City Council and spoke in opposition to the demolition when the Council considered the project. TGHS also met with the developers, The Holland Partner Group, and communicated its opposition to the demolition of the building.

In its communications and meetings, TGHS concurred with the City-adopted findings of the 2006 Historical Resources Technical Report for the Glendale Downtown Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that the building is eligible for listing on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and the California Register of Historical Resources. TGHS argued that a new, project-specific EIR was warranted to address the historic significance of the property in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act. The Society made clear its preference for a preservation alternative that includes rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the existing structure rather than see yet another part of Glendale's history lost to the wrecking ball.

TGHS Members Enjoy an Evening at the Alex

Continued from page 5

During the Annual Meeting portion of the event, The Community Foundation of the Verdugos presented the Society with a check for the earnings from the TGHS endowment at the Foundation. Foundation board member Arye Gross presented the check and spoke movingly of Richard Montgomery's creation of the fund in the early years of TGHS.

Also at the meeting, Society members elected Jamie Anderson, Brian Haworth, and Vrej Mardian to serve on the Board of Directors and re-elected Victoria Lasken. Departing Board members Marty Bracciotti, Scott Lasken and Joe Selph were recognized for their outstanding service to TGHS and the community. TGHS thanks the event sponsors: The Americana at Brand, Far Niente restaurant and Glendale Arts.



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

111 East Broadway, Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91205

Email: info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org

Phone: (818) 241-8040

Fax: (818) 241-8045

Give the Gift of Membership

Looking for that perfect holiday gift?

How about sharing the benefits that membership in The Glendale Historical Society offers throughout the year?

See our membership form on page 7 of this newsletter or visit us at www.glendalehistorical.org

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: JULY 2012 - SEPTEMBER 2012

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Annie & Dennis Reed - N
Heather Norris &
Sean Bersell - U

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Elaine & Bill Wilkerson - R

TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Jonathan Avila - R
Pam & Jim Elyea - R
Dr. Gary Gilbert - U
Marcia Hanford - R
Thomas McIntyre - R
Mary Kay Prather - R
Cindy & Fred Soldwedel - N

SUSTAINING (\$50)

G&C Properties - N
Glendale Adventist
Medical Center - R
Margie & Rick Barnes - N
Sharla & Mark Bohman - R
Ruth Ellen Billion - U
Marty Bracciotti &
Joe Selph - R
Jane Brown &
Gary Hart - R
Frances & Jose Chavez - N
Norm & Evelyn Cecere - R
Brian Cornelius - R

Paul Lombardi - N
Bruce G. Merritt - N
Cecilia & Steven Myers - R
Louise & Byron Peebles - R
Dana Smith - N
Joan & Kurtwood Smith - N
Anita Weaver &
William Clifton - U
Francey & Bill Welker - N
Bea Wojtyla - U
Susan Wolfson - R

DUAL (\$40)

Moira Delaney & Julio Moline - R
Allan & Nancy Durham - R
Laura Friedman &
Guillaume Lemoine - R
Cathy & Douglas Green - R
Christine & Jay Lee - N
Joanna Linkchorst - N
Natalie McKenna - N
Stacy Niss-Sator - U
Gail & Carl Nelson - R
Dawn & Alan Phillips - N
Lila & Rich Ramirez - R
Mindy Shannon - N
Desiree & Allan Shier - R
Beth Tapper & Mitch Watson - R
Sharon Versweyeld - N
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann - R

Christina Zastrow - N

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Mary Baldwin - R
Eric Borigini - N
Ruth Brooks - R
Mollie Burks-Thomas - N
Susan Carr - N
Elena Castro - N
Cindy Charles - N
Jan Craig - R
Shirley Darling - U
Frank de Lucia - N
Lisa Bingham Dewart - N
Marie Fish - R
Gayle Fitch - N
Kyle Grimes - N
Karen Goodman - N
Katherine Hagerott - N
Marcie Haug - N
Kay Heitzman - N
Mady Julian - N
Scott Kirkland - N
Sally Little - N
Vivian Long - R
Brenda Montgomery - N
Pandora Ovanessian - N
Frances Ramirez - N
Lorenzo San Pedro - N
Ron Scott - N

Katie Shiban - N
Jeffrey Smith - R
Lenore Solis - N
Laura Stotler - N
Jolene Taylor - R
Richard Threlkeld - R
William Troiano - R
Caroline Tufenkian - R
Brit Trydal - R
Carolyn West - N
Stephan Zukpas - R

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Betty Albu - R
Minerva Astengo - R
Aileen Babakhani - N
Sharyn Bess - N
Lynda Burns - N
Chumnong Chantra - N
Veronica Chaynoor - N
Hayk Esaghoullyan - N
Shelley Filian - R
Ronald Finely - R
Jan Giacomia - N
Nicholas Hall - N
G Hampton - N
Wendy Juleff - N
Jack Kandel - R
Jane Kneedler - R
Eileen Mendoza - R

Wendy Myers - R
Bob Oliphant - R
Sharon Garrison - N
Diane Spurlock - R
Bonnie C. Strand - N
Dee D Trent - R
Sandra Weggeland - R

NON-PROFIT (\$35)

Chevy Chase Homeowners
Association - R
Historical Society of the
Crescenta Valley - 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

NOVEMBER 10 • SATURDAY

ROSSMOYNE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

A one-hour architectural/historical walk highlighting
Glendale's fourth and largest historic district.

Meet at Nibley Park,
1301 E Mountain St
at 10:45 am

11:00-12:00 noon

No reservations needed

FREE

DECEMBER 8 AND 15 • SATURDAYS

CANDELIGHT TOURS
and live holiday music

Doctors House

Self-guided tours will be continuous,
no reservations needed.

6:30 - 8:30 pm

\$5 DONATION REQUESTED

BENEATH THE VEIL

OCTOBER 27 AT THE DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM

Beneath the Veil—a special one-night-only exhibit of
mourning and death—revealed the customs, practices,
superstitions, beliefs and traditions of the Victorian era.



Photo: Sonia Montejano

Participants of "Beneath the Veil" exhibit at the Doctors House Museum:
Mourners Steven Butros and Mary Khachatryan and the "deceased" Gerard Marin.