



# THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE

WINTER 2015



## Give the Gift of Membership or Make a Donation

Looking for that perfect holiday present for the person who has everything? Think about giving your friends or loved ones the gift of membership in The Glendale Historical Society so they too can share in the benefits that membership offers throughout the year. Purchase online at [www.GlendaleHistorical.org](http://www.GlendaleHistorical.org) or contact Membership & Outreach Chair Laura Crook about gift options at [Laura.Crook@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:Laura.Crook@glendalehistorical.org). You will receive a lovely card with bonus certificates that is ready to give to your recipient ... truly turnkey!

You may also want to consider making an end-of-the-year donation to TGHS's Preservation Fund or Endowment at the Community Foundation of the Verdugos.

The Preservation Fund is used exclusively for projects directly related to the Society's preservation efforts, such as supporting the creation of historic districts and preparing historic resource assessments on noteworthy properties.

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment for TGHS. The annual earnings from the endowment are used exclusively to support TGHS activities. TGHS encourages donations and bequests to the endowment fund to provide a permanent source of income to the Society.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.glendalehistorical.org/preservation-fund](http://www.glendalehistorical.org/preservation-fund) or [www.glendalehistorical.org/endowment-fund](http://www.glendalehistorical.org/endowment-fund).

Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## Setting our Sights on a Thousand

Our goal is not to be the best-kept secret in town, and we are happy to report that our membership roster is rapidly growing. We currently have more than 600 members but are looking to increase that number to 1,000. As part of our ongoing outreach to potential new members, TGHS has sent letters to non-members who own property listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and those who reside in recently established historic districts. Our outreach efforts have been working, and we are thrilled to welcome 112 new members this year.

In the New Year, TGHS will expand its outreach efforts by also welcoming all new Glendale homeowners and encouraging them to support preservation by joining one of the community's best all-volunteer, non-profit organizations.

Look out Glendale, TGHS is looking to grow!

## TGHS to Celebrate Preservation Month with Restoration Expo

On Sunday, May 15, 2016, TGHS will hold its first Restoration Expo, and we need your input now!

Have you ever wondered where to find the perfect replacement doorknob for your Craftsman bungalow or someone who really knows how to re-plaster the walls in your Spanish Revival home? Send us your wish list.

Have you had experience with fine restoration experts or vendors that you would like to recommend? Send us their contact information.

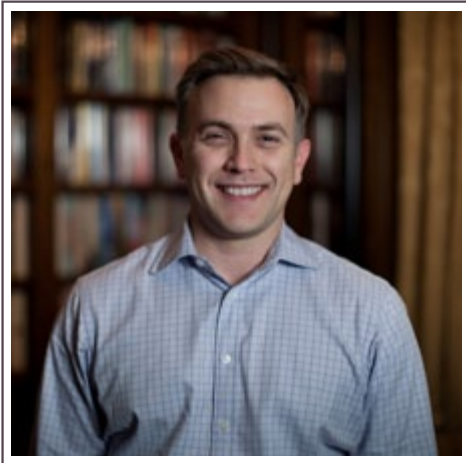


Vendors will showcase their products and talents in Brand Park in front of the Doctors House, which will be open as a shining example of loving restoration. A full day of demonstrations, workshops and lectures is planned as well. Topics under consideration include the following:

Tile, plaster, hardwood floors, windows, hardware, vintage rug cleaning, salvage, City regulations and permits, etc. We are open to suggestions for more!

Please send your wish list and/or recommendations to [events@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:events@glendalehistorical.org) (preferred) or leave a message at **818-242-7447**. Volunteers for the Expo Committee are welcome as well. Sub-groups with specific tasks are being formed now.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I've often said that TGHS has the best members, which was recently confirmed to me by the outpouring of support for The Illuminate Project, the fundraising campaign to help Glendale Arts raise \$25,000 toward the restoration of the Alex Theatre's iconic 100-foot Art Deco neon tower and adorning starburst. As an incentive, TGHS offered a dollar for dollar match of up to \$5,000 in an effort to reach this fundraising goal.

Your response was phenomenal! Together, TGHS members donated an impressive \$13,121, which, combined with our \$5,000 match, resulted in a total contribution of \$18,121 to help restore the Alex's spire, just in time for re-lighting on the theatre's 90th birthday

on September 4, 2015.

TGHS was involved with ensuring that the restoration work was appropriate and historically accurate for such an important national landmark, particularly with the conversion of the tower's chaser lights from incandescent light bulbs to more energy-efficient and long-lasting LEDs. Many thanks to Elissa Glickman, Glendale Arts' Chief Executive Officer, for including us in the process. And a special thanks to Peyton Hall, Managing Principal of Historic Resources Group, for lending his professional expertise pro bono.

Our organization has a long history of supporting the Alex Theatre. Under the leadership of Past President Andrea Humberger, TGHS played an instrumental role in saving the historic theatre in the early 1990s. Today, Andrea heads the Alex Film Society, which presents classic films, cartoons, newsreels and short subjects at the historic theatre. TGHS members can receive the discount group rate on tickets to Alex Film Society shows. For more information, visit [www.alexfilmsociety.org](http://www.alexfilmsociety.org).

We are so fortunate to have this world-class, historic theatre in our community, and it is important that we all do what we can to support

it so that it not only survives but continues to thrive. I encourage you all to take advantage of this wonderful resource and check out the variety of events that the Alex hosts throughout the year, including music and dance performances, concerts, comedy presentations, film screenings, author readings, cultural celebrations and much more. I had the pleasure of attending "Billy Elliot the Musical" at the Alex in February and it was fantastic - even better than the production I saw in London's West End a few years earlier. I look forward to seeing more enjoyable performances at the Alex in 2016 and hope to see you there too.

Best wishes to all you for a wonderful holiday season and health and happiness in the New Year.

Regards,

*Greg Grammer*

***“We are so fortunate to have such a world-class, historic theatre in our community, and it is important that we all do what we can to support it”***

**PRESIDENT**

Greg Grammer

greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Catherine Jurca

catherine.jurca@glendalehistorical.org

**SECRETARY**

Brian Haworth

bhaworth@glendalehistorical.org

**TREASURER**

Vrej Mardian

VrejMardian@glendalehistorical.org

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Ron Cressy

ron.cressy@glendalehistorical.org

Laura Crook

laura.crook@glendalehistorical.org

Margaret Hammond

Marcia Hanford

marcia.hanford@glendalehistorical.org

Steven Hunt

steve.hunt@glendalehistorical.org

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Sean Bersell

sean.bersell@glendalehistorical.org

**DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR**

Sonia Montejano

sonia.montejano@glendalehistorical.org

**DOCTORS HOUSE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Peter Rusch

peterrusch@yahoo.com

**NEWSLETTER LAYOUT**

Matthew Letcher

matt@mletcher.com

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Scott Lasken

scott@stratagemdesigninc.com

# PRESERVATION UPDATES

## Glendale to Consider Possibility of Property Tax Reduction for Historic District Contributors

**T**GHS has approached city officials to ask them to support a proposal extending Mills Act contracts to historic district contributors in need of restoration. Staff has been asked to write a report on the feasibility of making such properties eligible, with the issue to come before Council.

In Glendale, the Mills Act, a state program that gives owners of historic properties a significant property tax reduction to offset the costs of maintenance, is currently available only to buildings listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and not to historic district contributors – those houses with sufficient integrity to “contribute” to the historic character of the district.

Extending Mills Act contracts to historic district properties would have two benefits. It would improve the condition of historic resources within Glendale’s neighborhoods by providing the financial help to restore and maintain them. In addition, it would provide another incentive for residents to come together to protect the history, aesthetics and property values of their neighborhoods by forming historic districts.

TGHS is going to be calling on our members for help to persuade City Council to extend the program. Staff may argue that it lacks the resources to handle additional contracts. Glendale has indeed reduced its financial support for historic preservation, even as the number of historic resources has increased. But the City need not hire additional staff; it can use consultants to do the work, a strategy employed in many city departments. And the work involved in evaluating a Mills Act application for a historic district contributor is far less than the application for a property that seeks designation on the Glendale Register.

Los Angeles and Pasadena both allow contributors to qualify for the tax deduction. Pasadena also extends contracts to non-contributors, or houses that have been significantly altered over time, if they can be restored to their significant historic and architectural features based on documentary evidence in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

TGHS has proposed to follow Pasadena’s lead in making both contributors and appropriate non-contributors eligible. Our proposal includes the following conditions: the total number of new single-family residential contracts a year would be limited to 20; the assessed value of each historic district property would be limited to \$1.5 million; and owners would be required to submit a detailed plan for restoration work/future maintenance to demonstrate need.

In addition, the proposed work could include areas outside the public view, even though these are not taken into consideration when determining whether a house is a contributor. The work could also include upgrades to stabilize a building, such as addressing deteriorated plumbing, hazardous wiring and seismic issues.

Fortunately, the costs to the city are minimal. Taxes on a property assessed at \$1,000,000 are \$10,000 per year (1% of assessed value). Glendale receives 13% of that amount, or \$1,300. A Mills Act contract with a 50% property tax reduction would result in a loss of about \$650 per year per property, a relatively trivial amount when balanced against the gains for our community.

Once again, we will need your help to ensure that our proposal moves forward. Please be prepared to encourage the City Council to make historic preservation in Glendale a priority and property tax breaks to restore and maintain more historic resources a reality.



# EVENTS

## Glendale Goes Mad for Modern

Six spectacular Mid-century Modern residences tucked away in some of Glendale's most charming and historic neighborhoods were visited by more than 500 guests on the September 27 "Mad for Modern" Home Tour. This selection of homes presented a first-hand opportunity for the public to learn about this important era of design and architecture and see the results of sensitive restoration and preservation.

The 2015 Home Tour would not have been possible without the generous support of the homeowners and scores of volunteers. TGHS is also grateful for the support of returning sponsors **G&C Properties, The Walt Disney Company** and **Whole Foods Market**.

As a precursor to this year's Home Tour, former TGHS president and current Historic Preservation Commissioner Arlene Vidor gave an illustrated presentation on "Glendale Goes Modern." Over 70 people viewed dozens of examples of Glendale's finest Mid-century Modern architecture while seated in the 1967 Vallejo Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church designed by local architect Robert Burman.



Photos: Victoria Lasken

# EVENTS

## Casa Verdugo Walking Tour Highlights Early Neighborhood



Photos: Shel Weisbach

On October 10, nearly two dozen attendees participated in TGHS's walking tour of Casa Verdugo, one of Glendale's earliest neighborhoods. Led by TGHS Executive Director Sean Bersell, a resident of the neighborhood, the tour started at the northern terminus of the Pacific Electric Railway's Red Line at North Brand Boulevard and Mountain Street and highlighted Craftsman-style houses, homes built in the 1920s in the Spanish, Tudor and Mediterranean Revival styles and the stunning Elliot House (Glendale Register No. 40), as well as the last remaining location of the historic and famous Casa Verdugo restaurant. Along the way, Bersell provided attendees with anecdotes about the neighborhood and its colorful residents.

Check your email for announcements of future walking tours.

## Forest Lawn Hosts TGHS Members

Forest Lawn-Glendale hosted TGHS members in early November for an art tour of the Great Mausoleum. Participants were treated to an exclusive exploration of the statuary, stained glass and bronze masterpieces in what was Southern California's premier tourist attraction before the opening of Disneyland. As a special benefit, attendees were admitted to the usually off-limits Poet's Corridor, which features 13 stained glass windows accompanied by quotes from famous poets such as Longfellow and Tennyson.



# DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM

## Silent Auction Winners Enjoy Delightful Meal in Victorian Style

**D**inner at the Doctors House has been a special tradition shared by a few lucky raffle winners. Recently, the silent auction at the annual Gala & Benefit afforded the opportunity for two parties of four to dine in Victorian style in a dining room where the elite of Glendale society wined and dined at the invitation of one of the four doctors who once lived there. The fortunate silent auction winners were treated to a specially guided tour of this elegant 1890 Queen Anne-Eastlake beauty, then elegantly served dinner in the authentic surroundings of this landmark Glendale home. Multiple courses of sumptuous food were complemented by the always properly prepared English tea ceremony. Afterwards, guests were whisked off into the night with many happy memories and hopes of returning once again for a special evening with their friends.



2015 Gala & Benefit silent auction winners Francesca and Lee Smith (right), with their visiting friends from Whittier, Gary and Donna Petersen.



2014 Gala & Benefit silent auction winners Gerri and Art Cragnotti (center) with their longtime friends Brenda and Jay Butler, who have just recently moved back to Glendale.

The Glendale Historical Society Presents  
**CANDLELIGHT TOURS  
OF THE DOCTORS HOUSE**



**DECEMBER 12 AND 19, 2013**  
**6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**1601 WEST MOUNTAIN STREET, GLENDALE, CA**  
Located in Beaud Park

# WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: AUGUST 2015 - OCTOBER 2015

## JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Meredith Fox-N  
Corinne Sánchez & Efren Manjarrez-R

## VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Polly & Jamie Anderson-R  
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk-R  
Mary Kay Prather & Thomas  
Jacobsmeyer-U  
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson-R  
Mana & John Vulchev-N

## TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Tatevik & Vartan Achabashian-N  
Andrew Allison-N  
Kim Canon & Hector Montejano-U  
Hillary & Weston Cookler-N  
Pam & Bruce Devine-R  
Raquel & Stephane Elfassi-N  
Marcia Hanford-R  
Sue & Alan Hunter-R  
Joe Lo Truglio-R  
Thomas McIntyre-R  
Navah Raphael & Vincent Maeder-N  
Zara Rostomian & Varand  
Balasanian-R  
Desiree & Alan Shier-R  
Jeanette Stirdivant-R  
Joemy Wilson & Jon Harvey-R

## SUSTAINING (\$50)

Jane Brown & Gary Hart-R  
Mary & Robert Bush-R  
Carol Koopman-U

Nancy & Richard Mancini-R  
Patricia McNamara-N  
Donald McPoland-R  
Nancy Michael & Michael Bain-R  
Gloria & Jerome Sander-R

## DUAL (\$40)

Pauline Callahan & Lloyd Ferguson-R  
Alvaro Cardenas & Daniel McQueen-R  
Victoria & Chris Durant-R  
Lisa Dyson-N  
Laura Friedman & Guillaume Lemoine-R  
Leticia Gonzalez & Ken Batchelor-R  
Adrine Issavy & David Hildreth-N  
Wendy Juleff-R  
Linda Kringel-N  
Josef Lindner-N  
Michael Locke-R  
Aimee Lombard-N  
Cathy & Bob Nicksin-R  
Stacy Niss-Sartor-R  
Tim Patterson & Steven Zimbelman-N  
April & Georges Rouveyrol-R  
Mary & Don Savarese-R  
Lee Straus & Gregory Thieme-N  
Melia Tsurunaga & Matt Evans-N

## INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Dana Robert Amann-R  
Jeannie Bone-N  
Izabela Boyajyan-N  
Kelly Brooks-N  
Christopher Brown-R

Cindy Charles-R  
Linda Dorn-R  
Milena Dostanich-R  
Dorothy Eriksen-R  
Shelley Filian-R  
Marie Fish-R  
Greg Gaglio-N  
Jon Hooper-N  
Zoe Howard-N  
Cindy Kain-N  
Nora Leibman-N  
Los Angeles Public Library-R  
Lauren Lustig-N  
Carolyn Meduski-R  
James Moore-N  
Mike O'Rourke-N  
Virginia Paca-N  
John Pierce-N  
Eileen Rose-R  
Greg Scott-N  
Brit Trydal-R  
Eileen Wallis-N  
Sandra Weggeland-R

## SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Minerva Astengo-R  
Michael Bilson-N  
John Drayman-N  
David F. Eisenberg-R  
Constance Fosso-N  
Lyn Foster-R  
Ray Frauenholz-R  
Sharon Garrison-R

Blair Gordon-N  
Franklin Greenwalt-R  
Areg Gregorians-N  
John C. Hammell, Jr.-R  
Beverly Heyler-R  
John L. Johnson-N  
Marie Lavick-N  
Diane Lewis-R  
Rhodora Marina L. Maligalig-N  
Michael Mohill-R  
Wendy Myers-R  
Bonnie & Burt Noveck-N  
Patricia Phillips-N  
Juliette Shirikjian-N  
Diane Spurlock-R  
Diane Thomas-R  
Denise Walker-R

## NONPROFIT

Chevy Chase Estates  
Homeowners Association-R

## PAST PRESIDENTS

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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

PLEASE CONSIDER A MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE THE NEXT TIME YOU RENEW.

## THANK YOU CORPORATE/BUSINESS SPONSORS AND PATRON MEMBERS!

### GLENDALE GEM

G&C Properties

### HERITAGE CIRCLE

The Spot Gourmet  
The Walt Disney Company  
Whole Foods Market

### JEWEL CITY PATRONS

Anonymous  
David Brooks & John LoCascio  
Rima & Donnell Cameron  
Steven Chapman & Ricardo Ordoñez  
Shannon & Vic Cistulli  
Guy DeConte & Ammar Kharouf  
Meredith Fox  
Greg Grammer & Simon Wright  
Catherine Jurca & Scott Fraser  
Heather Norris & Sean Bersell  
Corinne Sánchez & Efren Manjarrez

### VERDUGO PATRONS

Polly & Jamie Anderson  
Derek Arteta & Brian Haworth  
Derek Cato & Mark Taraborelli  
Christie & Sean Crahan  
Peggy Dionne  
Pam & Jim Elyea (History for Hire)  
Maya Gulbekova  
Atul Gupta  
Nancy Hathaway (The Wine Vault)  
Eric Jacobson & Roy Luthringer  
Victoria & Scott Lasken  
Valerie & Bruce Merritt  
Mary Kay Prather & Thomas Jacobsmeyer  
Margi Simpkins  
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk (Rossmoyne Properties, Inc.)  
Francesca & Lee Smith  
Pam & Keith Sorem  
Arlene Vidor  
Mana & John Vulchev  
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson



PO Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202-0173  
www.glendalehistorical.org



## 2015-2016 EVENTS CALENDAR

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19  
6:30 - 8:30 PM**

CANDLELIGHT TOURS  
Doctors House Museum, Brand Park  
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale  
\$10 Donation Requested

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016  
7:00 PM**

REEL ART: VISUAL ACOUSTICS - THE MODERNISM  
OF JULIUS SHULMAN  
Co-sponsored by Brand Associates  
Brand Library Recital Hall  
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale  
No RSVP required; Free

**SAVE THE DATE!  
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016**

RESTORATION EXPO  
Vendor booths, demonstrations + more!  
Doctors House Gazebo and Lawn  
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale  
FREE



You "LIKE" Us!

*The Glendale Historical Society's Facebook page recently exceeded 1,000 "Likes."  
Thank you to all who are keeping up on TGHS's activities through Facebook.*

*To get the most up-to-date information on TGHS's events and preservation alerts, check out  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLENDALEHISTORICALSOCIETY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLENDALEHISTORICALSOCIETY)*