



## GCAT Soars to New Heights

The long-awaited restoration and rehabilitation of the Grand Central Air Terminal is now complete. In December, at the invitation of The Walt Disney Company, TGHS Board members joined city officials, staff and other guests at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the extraordinary facility.

Built in 1929, Grand Central Air Terminal was designed by architect Henry Gogerty in an eclectic style that combines features of Spanish Colonial Revival with Zigzag Moderne. Frequented by aviation pioneers including "Lucky Lindy," Amelia Earhart and Howard Hughes, the airport became a military base during World War II. It closed in 1959, and Disney bought the property and adjacent buildings in 1997.

Over the years, TGHS strongly advocated for restoration and rehabilitation of the Terminal and was involved throughout the design and construction process to ensure that important character-defining features of the building were preserved.

The project represents a model of historic preservation and adaptive reuse of which Disney and Glendale should be proud. Work included seismic stabilization of the building as well as the extensive repair and restoration of historic exterior elements including the original steel windows, cast stone ornament, lighting fixtures and signage and ceramic tile along the facades based on historic photographs.

Disney worked with architects Frederick Fisher and Partners and landscape architects Pamela Burton + Company on the design plans. Historic Resources Group served as the historic preservation consultant.

Especially impressive is the restoration of the interior, which is often not a part of historic preservation. The project team made every effort to find compatible uses for the original interior; thus the former waiting room is now an event space, which maintains its character-defining open volume. The flat plaster ceiling was reconstructed, and tile, iron and plaster at the grand staircase were repaired and restored, as were balconies at the east and west walls.

Even in the original coffee shop, which is now used as office space, the ornate ceilings, columns and pilasters were repaired and restored, and new light fixtures were created to replicate those found in photographs. Vast expanses of interior glass walls, frosted to provide privacy for employees but clear at the top, ensure that these beautiful features are visible from the hallways.



On their tour of the facility, TGHS Board members were able to climb into the former control tower, which is accessed only by a steep and narrow stairway and will not ordinarily be open. They also experienced a new addition: a bridge that spans the waiting room to connect second-floor offices on the south and north sides to facilitate the

movement of Disney employees. The bridge design is sensitive and compatible with the building; from the first floor, the underside of the bridge is evocative of an airplane wing.

Disney has created a Visitors Center, open on a limited, reservation-only basis, with displays and artifacts, and a 12-minute film summarizes the story of Grand Central Air Terminal.

Grand Central Air Terminal is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources (No. 19) and has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

## TGHS to Promote Preservation at First-Ever Restoration Expo

TGHS's inaugural Restoration Expo will be held in front of the Doctors House Museum in Brand Park on Sunday, May 15, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Part of the celebration of Preservation Month, the Restoration Expo will feature vendors of products and services for vintage home rehabilitation and maintenance. Experts in sensitive and sustainable home restoration will give presentations in the gazebo in front of the Doctors House. In addition, the Doctors House Museum will be open during the afternoon of the Expo as an example of loving restoration.

The festive and family-friendly atmosphere will include activities designed to celebrate and preserve Glendale's rich history and architectural heritage. Stay tuned for more details.

The Committee is still open to your wish list of potential vendors and/or recommendations for any exceptional restoration trades that TGHS members have worked with. Please send suggestions to [events@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:events@glendalehistorical.org) (preferred) or leave a message at 818 242-7447. Volunteers on the day of the Expo are also needed!



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Andy Kitchen

Each year the Board of Directors establishes new goals and objectives for the year ahead. This time we decided to be a bit more forward thinking and establish a five-year strategic plan – or what I like to call our 2020 Vision Plan. In the area of preservation advocacy, TGHS will be working hard to achieve the following:

## **Mills Act Benefits Extended to Historic District Properties**

In Glendale the Mills Act – a state program that provides owners of historic properties a significant property tax reduction – is currently available only to buildings listed on the Glendale Register. TGHS is working with City officials to extend the Mills Act program to historic district contributors (those with sufficient integrity to “contribute” to the historic character of the district) in need of maintenance or restoration. Expanding the program would help to improve the condition of historic resources in Glendale’s neighborhoods and add another incentive for residents to form historic districts to preserve the charm, cohesiveness and property values of their neighborhoods.

## **Citywide Comprehensive Historic Resources Survey**

The City of Glendale can take an important step to protect its architectural heritage by conducting a citywide survey to identify and document historic resources. TGHS has been advocating for a comprehensive survey for years, particularly of properties in commercial zones ripe for development. We hope that one will be prepared as part of the South Glendale Community Plan.

## **Environmental Analysis Consultants Selected by the City, Not the Developer**

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) informs government agencies, decision-makers and the public of a project’s environmental impacts on traffic, noise, air and water – as well as its effect on cultural and historical resources. Unfortunately, in Glendale developers select the consultants who prepare the EIRs on their projects. How impartial can such a study be? TGHS believes the City, as the lead agency, should select the consultant that performs the environmental review, and the developer should continue to pay for it.

## **TGHS Paid Staff with Expertise in Historic Preservation**

Since its inception, TGHS has been an all-volunteer organization of committed and talented individuals dedicated to the preservation of Glendale’s architectural heritage. Thanks to TGHS, Glendale has made strides over the years toward a greater awareness about the importance of preservation, but we have also seen a disturbing loss of our city’s historic fabric and ongoing problems with a

flawed environmental review process. Like similar non-profit organizations, TGHS would like to hire a qualified staff person or consultant with expertise in historic preservation to enhance our advocacy efforts.

## **Engaged and Informed Real Estate Agents Who Understand What it Means to Live in a Historic District and Own a Glendale Register Property**

TGHS views the real estate community as a valuable partner in preservation. Real estate agents play a fundamental role in communicating to potential homebuyers the responsibilities and privileges that come with owning property listed on the Glendale Register or located in a historic district. To that end, TGHS will be offering resources and education so they can all help convey the benefits and responsibilities of historic preservation to residents.

## **More City Preservation Planning Staff**

Due in part to budget cutbacks, Glendale has seen a reduction in the number of planning staff, including a dedicated Preservation Planner. As the City finds itself on solid financial ground once again, and as the number of historic district and Glendale Register properties continues to expand, TGHS would like to see more qualified historic preservation professionals added to the Community Development Department.

## **A More Active Role in Landmark and Historic District Nominations**

TGHS has been successful in encouraging nominations to the Glendale Register, which helps ensure that historic buildings are preserved and provides owners with property tax reductions to help defray costs associated with maintaining historic properties. TGHS plans to take a more active role in property and historic district nominations and is in the process of building a team of research volunteers to assist in this effort. Let us know if you would like to be a part of this important new endeavor.

## **Robust Preservation Advocacy Fund**

A few years ago TGHS established a fund exclusively for our preservation efforts, including the creation of historic districts and preparation of historic assessments on noteworthy properties threatened with demolition or significant alterations. Effective advocacy takes money and resources. TGHS will continue to step up its fundraising efforts to ensure we have the money available to protect and preserve our historic resources.

I look forward to working with all of you in the years ahead to conserve our historic architecture and to ensure that Glendale makes preservation a greater priority.

Regards,

*Greg Grammer*

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## New Year Brings Changes and New Challenges

**T**GHS Board Secretary Brian Haworth has stepped down a few months prior to the end of his second term due to family, home and job demands. During his 3+ years on the Board, Brian played a pivotal role in developing the Society's dynamic new website, creating and rolling out pages in the middle of the night over the course of many months. In addition to preparing agendas and minutes each month, Brian implemented key processes and project tracking systems for the Board. His fun, good-natured participation was an asset, along with his knowledge of city government. We wish Brian and his family all the best.



Photo: Ralph Ziegler

As Assistant Director of the Doctors House Museum, Peter Rusch bailed water overflowing from the attic air conditioner during the heat of July, crawled underneath the house in the chill of December to connect electrical wires for Christmas decorations and yet managed to doff his top hat and greet guests in true Victorian fashion. There is no way to enumerate all of the daily tasks of "Saint Peter" at the Doctors House, but anyone who has taken care of a household knows that the list of planned and unexpected details is never-ending. While Peter has stepped down as Assistant Director, he isn't going anywhere and will continue to be involved with many aspects of the Doctors House, including special events and exhibits. TGHS does not anticipate naming another Assistant Director but rather is organizing tasks into specific categories to be managed by other volunteers. Peter and Doctors House Director Sonia Montejano were honored with a Volunteer Award at the inaugural TGHS Gala & Benefit in 2014, but our gratitude is endless.

Also at the Doctors House, Curator and volunteer Dorothy Sundbye has moved to San Luis Obispo. Dorothy's legacy as a longtime Glendale resident and former teacher in Glendale schools dates back to her two aunts, who were the original telephone operators in Glendale. Dorothy donated many family antiques that adorn the Doctors House today. We will remember Dorothy with these lovely items in a house that remains suspended in time.

Ruth Ellen Billion succeeded Dorothy as Curator, and a sudden job opportunity in Hawaii means that she must step down from this position. Ruth Ellen was especially drawn to fabrics and organized the recent exhibit of christening garments. Aloha, and thank you, REB!



# PRESERVATION UPDATES

## LIST OF GLENDALE LANDMARKS CONTINUES TO GROW

### Glendale Register #111: Adams Square Gas Station



Photo: Arlene Vidor

### Glendale Register #112: Peterka House



Photo: Victoria Lasken

### Glendale Register #113: Willard House



Photo: Victoria Lasken

**T**he Adams Square Gas Station is a prefabricated structure in the Streamline Moderne style with a simple glass and metal office, dual canopies with round-ended roof fins and supporting columns featuring distinctive Moderne capitals. Located at 1020 East Palmer Avenue, the gas station was built in 1936 by the Richfield Oil Company. It was operated as a gas station under several different brands until the mid-1970s. TGHS fought vigorously to save the building and, in 2003, the City of Glendale purchased the property and ultimately incorporated it into the Adams Square Mini Park. The Adams Square Gas Station was nominated to the Register by former TGHS President and current Historic Preservation Commission Chair Arlene Vidor, who lives in the neighborhood.

**P**eterka House is an excellent example of a Modern post-and-beam residence. Located in the Adams Hill neighborhood, the two-story, T-shaped house features a distinctive indoor/outdoor floor plan, with the primary living spaces – located on the second floor – opening to a back patio. Other character-defining features include a very low pitched roof with deep eaves support by exposed rafter tails, clean lines, decorative wood panels and extensive glazing. Peterka House was built in 1963 and showcased in last year’s “Mad for Modern” Home Tour.

**W**illard House is a whimsical “Storybook-style” Tudor Revival in the Verdugo Woodlands. Featured in TGHS’s “Romantic Revivals” 2014 Home Tour, the house was the residence of former world heavyweight boxing champion Jess Willard from 1935-1948. Willard was known as the “Pottawatomie Giant,” as he stood over six feet six inches tall; his championship career began in 1915 with his victory over Jack Johnson, the first African-American heavyweight champion, and ended in 1919 with his loss to the great Jack Dempsey in a legendary bout. Built in 1929, the one-story house features an entry tower, steeply pitched roofs with rolled rakes (rounded edges) at the front and arched leaded glass windows.

## Tour of Grand Central Area Caps Year of Neighborhood Walks

Some 30 TGHS members gathered on a blustery December morning for a different kind of “neighborhood” walk. Led by long-time TGHS member and volunteer Jeri Anderson, this tour covered the industrial area around the Grand Central Air Terminal.



The centerpiece of the tour was the recently restored Terminal; built in 1929, it is one of Glendale’s most treasured historic resources. Tourgoers

were equally excited, however, to discover the less well-known buildings that surround it, some of which are also now part of The Walt Disney Company campus. These include attractive low-rise Mid-century Modern commercial buildings that formerly housed media industry-related companies Studio Girl Cosmetics and Colorvision.

Tourgoers also got to see the Irving Air Chute Factory building, which was designed by Henry Gogerty, the architect of the Terminal. The 1929 brick Art Deco industrial building is on the California State Register of Historic Places and was awarded the 2015 Preservation Award by TGHS.

Demand for this tour far exceeded space. TGHS plans to offer the tour again in the near future, as it continues the Neighborhood Walks series into 2016. Those members who were on the waiting list will be contacted and given first priority, and we hope to welcome many others.

## Large Crowd Attends Julius Shulman Film

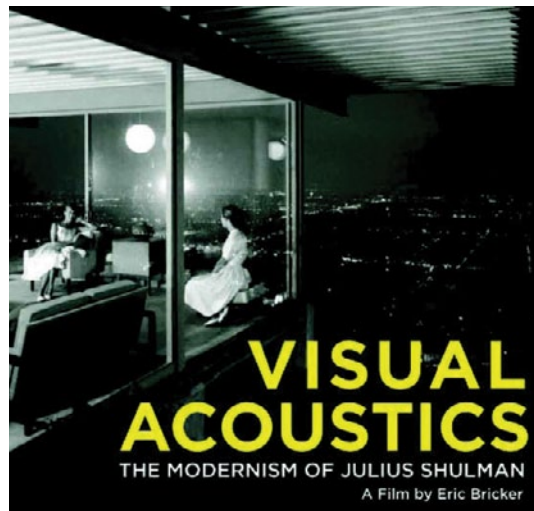
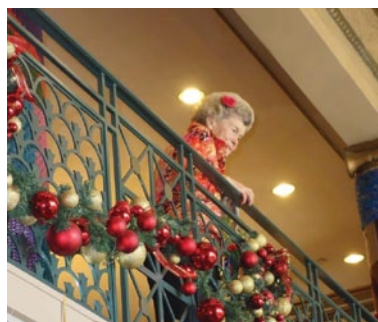


Image Courtesy of Arthouse Films

It was standing room only at Brand Library on January 21 when TGHS co-sponsored with Brand Associates *Reel Art: Visual Acoustics - The Modernism of Julius Shulman*. Approximately 150 people attended the informative and entertaining film, which was followed by a lively discussion led by Chris Nichols of *Los Angeles* magazine. Chris has been involved with historic preservation for 25 years, primarily through his work with the Los Angeles Conservancy and its Modern Committee, to save post-World War II architecture. His surprise guest was Dion Neutra, son of renowned architect Richard Neutra. Guests lingered, conversations were electric and popcorn hit the spot. A perfect follow-up to TGHS’s 2015 “Mad for Modern” Home Tour!



Photos: Ralph Ziegler

## TGHS Celebrates History and the Holidays at the Alex Theatre

On December 5, TGHS held its annual Holiday Party at the historic Alex Theatre. Co-sponsored by Glendale Arts, this members-only event included a delicious brunch and special backstage tours of Glendale’s beloved landmark.



# DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM



## Rich History of Lace Now on Exhibit

There have been many commodities of status and wealth over the centuries, such as tea and gold, but none with the rich cultural history of lace. This current exhibit at the Doctors House Museum opened to the public on January 15, 2016. With European roots extending back to the 15th century, lace has been coveted by royalty in all the European aristocracies, including those of Belgium, England, France, Ireland, Italy and Spain.

Lace making was both a handicraft and an industry that supported thousands of farmers to grow flax, plus thread makers, spinners, artist and pattern designers, merchants, lace makers and seamstresses across Europe. Lace fashion accessories were willed to heirs, removed from old clothing and reused.

In 1809, the invention of a machine that made the lace mesh background nearly caused the demise of handmade lace, as the machine-made product became more affordable for ordinary people; however, its popularity revived in the 1850s. Beautiful examples of Bobbin, Needle and Chemical laces in the forms of intricate collars, shawls and mantillas are on display at the Doctors House Museum, including varieties such as Alençon, Point de Gaze, Chantilly, Belgian, Net on Net and Pulled Lace. This fascinating exhibit, curated by Doctors House Director Sonia Montejano, continues through April 15.

## The Woman Behind the Wooton Desk



Image Courtesy of Glendale Central Library, Special Collections

While the current and wonderful exhibit on lace is on display at the Doctors House Museum, research is underway on the next! From April 15 to June 30, visitors will learn about the charismatic Fanny Briggs Carr, whose family donated the Wooton desk that

now sits in the doctor's office at the Museum. You may already be familiar with the name (does Glendale's Carr Park ring any bells?) and if not, you soon will be. As we curate this upcoming exhibit, feel free to contact TGHS member and volunteer Joemy Wilson at [JoemyWilson@gmail.com](mailto:JoemyWilson@gmail.com) if you have information about this mysterious business woman, inventor and activist of early Glendale. We cannot wait to tell you more!

## Candlelight Tours Attract Hundreds

On December 12 and 19, TGHS

embraced the spirit of the season with Candlelight Tours of the Doctors House. This annual event was a huge success, bringing in roughly 350 visitors to our lovely museum. Thanks to Forest Lawn-Glendale, guests enjoyed an abundance of festive flower arrangements



and Christmas cheer under the glow of twinkling lights and kerosene lamps. With at least one docent in every room describing the history and traditions of the Victorian era, the event was a magical way to celebrate a piece of our history. Outside, guests sipped hot cider and munched on fresh cookies while they enjoyed live music by the young performers of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music.

Thank you to those who volunteered, sponsored and attended. Because of them, TGHS and the Doctors House were able to end 2015 on a successful and joyous note!

# WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: NOVEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

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Catherine Jurca and Scott Fraser-U

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Pete Vanderveen  
Pam Vasquez  
Carolyn West  
Pat Wright  
Ralph Ziegler

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

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U - Upgrading Member

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## 2016 EVENTS CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20**  
**1:30 - 3:30 PM**

VICTORIAN EASTER  
Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park  
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale  
\$8 Donation Requested

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**  
**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

TASTE OF SPAIN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE  
Members: \$25;  
New Members/Qualifying Upgrade: FREE

**SUNDAY, MAY 15**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

RESTORATION EXPO  
Vendor booths, demonstrations + more!  
Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park  
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale  
FREE

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**  
**7:00 - 10:00 PM**

GALA & BENEFIT  
Grand Central Air Terminal  
Stay tuned for details!

**SATURDAY, JULY 16**  
**TIME: TBD**

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING  
Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park  
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale  
Members: Free; Guests: \$10



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