



NIODRARA DRIVE BECOMES CITY'S SEVENTH HISTORIC DISTRICT

On April 26 the Glendale City Council unanimously approved creation of the Niodrara Drive Historic District. An impressive 75% of property owners signed the final petition to request designation.

Located immediately north of Verdugo Park, the historic district includes 32 houses and encompasses all of Niodrara Drive and Fernbrook Place as well as sections of Hillside Drive and Wabasso Way. Architectural styles are typically eclectic. The district includes an American Foursquare from 1912 - one of the oldest houses in the Verdugo Woodlands, Rudolph Schindler's 1942 Rodriguez House and a 1950 rustic Ranch by Robert Byrd, who designed the estate of movie star Robert Taylor among other notable projects.

Each historic district is unique. What sets this one apart is the ornamental river rock landscaping elements, including several ponds and stone, concrete and faux bois (an artistic imitation of wood) bridges designed to showcase the natural stream that used to flow through it.

The historic resources survey found that Niodrara Drive is also eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources as one of the earliest subdivisions in southern California to reflect larger national trends of picturesque garden suburb design.

To celebrate Glendale's seventh historic district TGHS will offer another Niodrara Drive neighborhood walk soon so that members can learn more about this community treasure.

Do you think your neighborhood may qualify as a historic district? Many parts of Glendale do but have yet to be recognized. Please contact info@glendalehistorical.org if you would like more information about how to form a historic district.

Mills Act Extended to Historic District Contributors

In a big win for preservation, City Council unanimously approved a proposal, initiated by TGHS, to allow owners of historic district contributors in need of restoration to apply for Mills Act contracts starting in 2017. The Mills Act gives owners of historic properties a significant, permanent property tax reduction to offset the cost of preserving them.

Originally staff had sought to limit the number of contracts to six per year, with at least two reserved for historic district contributors and no more than four for properties listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. TGHS is grateful to those of you who wrote to support expansion of the Mills Act program and to request that the hard cap on Glendale Register properties be lifted. The City agreed to process more than four such applications if time allows.

But the sad truth is that Glendale has significantly reduced its staffing levels in historic preservation in recent years, even as the number of historic resources continues to increase.

Eventually TGHS would like to see a more generous program like the City of Pasadena's, which offers up to 20 Mills Act contracts per year.

Contributors with an assessed value of \$1.5 million or less will be eligible for the contract. Owners need to submit a detailed plan for restoration, which may include structural upgrades, to qualify.

TGHS hopes that the new program will not only improve the condition of historic resources in Glendale neighborhoods by facilitating needed repairs, but that it will create another incentive for residents to come together to protect neighborhood history, aesthetics and property values by forming historic districts.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Andy Kitchen

May is Preservation Month, not just in Glendale but across the nation. The Glendale Historical Society is pleased to join other preservation advocacy groups, historical societies, cities and states throughout the country in celebrating and preserving our rich history and architectural heritage, not only this month but throughout the year.

I have been a member of The National Trust for Historic Preservation for years and wholeheartedly support its *This Place Matters*® campaign this year to

commemorate Preservation Month. I urge all of you to take the time to speak up for the places that matter most to you right here in Glendale. After all, it is our historic resources and the stories they tell that help define and distinguish our community. It's important to send a strong message to our City leaders that these places do indeed matter and need to be preserved. To participate, take photos of your favorite buildings in Glendale and share them online on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. I'm narrowing my list and will be posting some of my favorite places all month long. Which places in Glendale matter most to you? Be sure to tag The Glendale Historical Society and use the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters. For more information, visit www.savingplaces.org.

“[I]t is our historic resources and the stories they tell that help define and distinguish our community.”

For our part, TGHS observed Preservation Month by kicking off its first-ever Restoration Expo on May 15 to provide the community with valuable resources and preservation experts to assist with the maintenance and restoration of older, historic properties. It has been suggested many times over the years that TGHS offer an event like this, and I'm so pleased we were able to make it happen this year. Many thanks to Restoration Expo Committee Chair Robert Gordon, as well as the committee members, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors and volunteers who made it all possible. This year's Expo was a huge success, and I look forward to seeing it become an even bigger event next year.

May you all have a Happy Preservation Month!

Regards,

Greg Grammer

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Come Fly With Us to Grand Central Air Terminal Tickets on Sale for Annual Gala & Benefit

You are invited to TGHS's third annual Gala & Benefit, *Come Fly With Us*, on June 11, 2016, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, at the beautifully restored and historic Grand Central Air Terminal.

Sponsored by **The Walt Disney Company** and **G&C Properties**, the festive evening will feature live music and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit TGHS's endowment and preservation funds.

Dedicated in 1929, Grand Central Air Terminal was designed by noted architect Henry Gogerty in an eclectic architectural style that combines features of Spanish Colonial Revival with Zigzag Moderne. The terminal played a pivotal role in the development of aviation in the United States and became the premier location for air travel in Southern California, frequented by Hollywood stars as well as notable aviation pioneers "Lucky Lindy," Amelia Earhart and Howard Hughes. Several movies were filmed at the air terminal, including *Bright Eyes* (1934) starring Shirley Temple.

Disney purchased Grand Central Air Terminal in 1997 and recently completed a stunning restoration and rehabilitation of the property. The building is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources (No. 19) and will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

At the Gala & Benefit, TGHS will present its annual awards in recognition of outstanding achievement in historic preservation. The recipients of this year's Preservation Awards are Grand Central Air Terminal and the newly established Niodrara Drive Historic District.

Tickets to the Gala & Benefit are \$140 for TGHS Members and \$190 for the general public. Tickets may be purchased online at www.GlendaleHistorical.org or by sending a check to The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202.

For further information, please contact events@glendalehistorical.org or 818-242-7447.



Francesca Smith Joins Board



TGHS is pleased to welcome Francesca Smith as its newest member to the Board of Directors. Francesca has been a member of TGHS's Preservation Advocacy Committee since 2012 and played an instrumental role in the creation of the Brockmont Park Historic District.

Francesca has been professionally involved in historic preservation for the past three decades and has served on other preservation and history advocacy non-profit boards. She completed the requirements for the Master of Science in Historic Preservation at Columbia University and holds a degree in a closely related field. Her professional and academic experience qualifies her as both an Architectural Historian and a Historian under the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards. Her professional experience has provided consideration of nuances in the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 106 and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Those experiences have ranged from nationwide and regional transportation and transit projects to certified rehabilitations.

Francesca was appointed to the Board earlier this year to fill a vacancy and will stand for election to a full two-year term in July 2016.

With her husband, Lee, she lives in a superb 1955 Ranch home in the Brockmont Park Historic District with two fantastic rescue dogs.

Demolition of Craftsman Bungalows Postponed



Supporters of preservation scored two more victories in April. First, after TGHS and its members raised objections, the City Council postponed a decision to approve a five-story, 44-unit multi-family residential building that entails the demolition of two historic Craftsman bungalows from 1912 and 1920 at 126, 128 and 132 South Kenwood Street.

A historic resources assessment prepared by a consultant chosen by the developer found the subject property ineligible for the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. However, TGHS provided evidence that the high-integrity bungalows exceed the requirements for local designation. Not only do they “embod[y] the distinctive and exemplary characteristics of [their] architectural style,” but one was the long-time home of Reverend Clifford Cole, a prominent citizen who “significantly contributed” to the history of Glendale as a churchman, city official and journalist.

TGHS pointed out that review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is triggered when there is disagreement between experts about whether a property qualifies as a historic resource. We believe the developer should be required to prepare an Environmental Impact

Report (EIR)—with the consultant selected by the City—which would have to consider alternatives to demolition.

Two weeks later the City’s Design Review Board delayed consideration of another project, a three-story, 17-unit multi-family residential building at 401-409 Hawthorne Street, after a last-minute intervention by TGHS. The project involves the demolition of a Hip-Roofed Cottage from 1910 as well as a pair of high-integrity Clip-Roofed Craftsman bungalows built in 1922. In this case the City did not request preparation of a historic resources assessment but simply declared the properties ineligible for designation.

To deal with the ongoing problem of flawed or missing historic resources assessments, TGHS has requested that the City require intensive evaluations by qualified professionals without ties to project applicants for any demolition of buildings completed more than 45 years ago. This is standard best practice. TGHS has also asked the City to update and expand its 2007 survey of Craftsman houses, which did not include properties in commercial zones.

Neither the South Kenwood Street or Hawthorne Street project is going away. Whether we can ultimately save any of these bungalows from the wrecking ball depends on you. The City Council needs to know that Glendale residents want alternatives to the destruction of downtown Glendale’s historic fabric as well as an appropriate and consistent review process.

Rockhaven Receives State Historic Designation

On April 18 Rockhaven Sanitarium was approved for listing in the California Register of Historic Places by the California State Historical Resources Commission. Rockhaven was nominated by the nonprofit group Friends of Rockhaven; TGHS sent a letter to the state expressing its enthusiastic and unqualified support of the nomination.

The nomination will now be forwarded from the State of California to the Keeper of the National Register for review. Once the Keeper approves, Rockhaven will be formally listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Rockhaven was founded in 1923 by psychiatric nurse Agnes Richards as a place where women suffering “mild mental and nervous disorders” could be treated. Located at 2713 Honolulu Avenue, Rockhaven is a unique cluster of historic buildings and landscaping of remarkable integrity. It is a rare extant and intact example of the residential healthcare facilities that were once plentiful in the region, and it continues to express the feeling and aesthetic of its original and quite specific purpose as a women’s mental health facility, one of the first of its type in the nation. In addition, because of its reputation for excellent care, the facility included significant personages among its many patients, including Gladys Baker Ely, mother of Marilyn Monroe, and actress Billie Burke, who is best remembered as Glinda the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939).

see “Rockhaven” (page 5)

DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM



Photo: Ralph Ziegler

Kids Enjoy Easter Egg Hunt and Victorian Games

Victorian Easter on March 30 found nearly 200 participants hunting eggs, playing games and enjoying refreshments, including hand-cranked ice cream. The plethora of pastel outfits and décor were a vision for the season, and family fun prevailed, with nothing electrical or electronic involved. A big thank you to all who volunteered to make this event possible.



Photo: Sonia Montejano

Lucky Winners Enjoy Lavish Meal

In April TGHS hosted a private dinner at the Doctors House for “Dinner at the Doctors House” raffle winners Tina and Iman Amirteymoori, who decided to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in Victorian style. After a champagne toast, the couple sat down in the candlelit dining room for a seven course menu. Doctors House Director Sonia Montejano, Curator Peter Rusch and volunteer Patricia Messina served the sumptuous meal on vintage china that evoked late 19th century elegance!



Welcome New Volunteers!

Welcome Chris Warheit, Kathryn Loeser and Nora Patockova to the Doctors House Museum’s cadre of docents and greeters. Should you be interested in joining the ranks of volunteers, please contact Peter Rusch at (818) 247-5799 for more information.

Recently, Doctors House docents participated in a tour exchange with Hollyhock House in Barnsdall Park. They were delighted to visit and explore Frank Lloyd Wright’s first Los Angeles project, which has recently been restored to its original splendor, and share Glendale’s Victorian gem with their Hollyhock counterparts.

“Rockhaven” Continued from page 4

TGHS supports the recent decision by the Glendale City Council to solicit proposals from potential development partners, particularly those with experience in restoring and adaptively reusing historic properties, to find a suitable project for the site. The buildings at Rockhaven have continued to deteriorate since the City purchased the 3.3 acre property in 2008 and further delays will only threaten their long-term viability. However, TGHS is disappointed that the City submitted a letter to the state opposing Rockhaven’s nomination to the National Register and that it doesn’t seem to understand that preservation of historic resources needs to be an integral part of the adaptive reuse process. TGHS is grateful to the Friends of Rockhaven for ensuring that the historic property now has the additional protections that it deserves and is committed to working with the City to ensure that any plans for the property: 1) identify, retain, and preserve Rockhaven’s historic structures, features, and landscaping in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation; 2) result in the placement of Rockhaven on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources; and 3) honor the City’s intention when it purchased Rockhaven by maintaining some right of public access, so that the community can, at long last, enjoy this special place.

Responses to the City’s Request for Proposals (RFP) are due by June 14, 2016.

EVENTS

Members Savor Taste of Spain

A record-breaking crowd of 160 attended TGHS's sixth annual Taste of Spain on April 23 at the beautiful 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival home of patrons Steven Chapman and Ricardo Ordóñez. The hosts generously produced an elegant party, including authentic Spanish art pieces in the decor. Guests enjoyed sangria, wine and delicious food from FRIDA Mexican Cuisine. More than two dozen new members and upgrades signed on during this year's membership drive.

Photos: Jeri Anderson



Join Us for Tropico and Forest Lawn Bus Tour

On July 23, two destinations in the part of southern Glendale formerly known as Tropico will be featured on a bus tour. Starting from Forest Lawn-Glendale, guests will learn some of Tropico's history while en route to the magnificent Glendale Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Docents will be on hand at the depot, and guests will have time to explore and take photos. The bus will return to the oldest section of Forest Lawn, where some of Glendale's early dignitaries were laid to rest. After hearing the Park's early history, the tour will conclude at a reception in the Forest Lawn Museum with wine, cheese, exhibits and incredible views.



Thanks to Forest Lawn's generosity, all proceeds from this tour will go toward maintenance of the Doctors House Museum. Reservations are required and space is limited. Tickets go on sale in mid-June. Be sure TGHS has your email address so you receive notifications of this ticket sale, plus other events and key issues.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: FEBRUARY 2016 - APRIL 2016

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Alan Gelman & Atul Gupta-U
Arlene Vidor-U

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Gerri & Art Cragnotti-U
Peggy Dionne
Wright Kim Douglas, ALC-N

TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Howard Anderson
Jeri Anderson
Jennifer Bentson-Gebel
Sharla & Mark Bohman
Ronald Cressy
Arlet & Harach Davoodian
Pam & Bruce Devine
Clemencia & Romeo Garza-U
Shirley Gorby
Caroline McDougal Helmuth-N
Phil Kubel-N
Jennifer & Blake Levin-U
Diane Lewis-U
Paul Lombardi
Alen Malekian
Sandra McNeill-N
Jim Newman & Michael Williams
Vic Pallos
Mimi Plutae-U
Eileen Pohl & John Madden-U
Lila & Rich Ramirez
Devonna & Aaron Reichert-U
Susan & Doug Rogers
Sandra Costa Design-N
Nancy & Leonard Schaustal
Matthew Letcher-U
Jean & Edgardo Simone
Mirna Stanley
Diane Stevens
Debra Thompson & Lawrence Riff
Anita Weaver & William Clifton

Lee Anne & Mike Wiederkehr-U

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Barbara & John Bodden-N
Nina Crowe
Gerda D'Nino-U
Barbara Don & Thomas Metzler
Gail & Robert Egan-N
Mary Jo & Lee Ferrell-U
Patricia Fiedler
Cari Field-N
Eva & Bill Fonnet
Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch
Joan Hardie
Kristen & Rob Hoegge
Susan Hollander
Connie Humberger-U
Sarah MacLeod & Brian Dawson-N
Roberta Medford-N
Melanie Mueller-U
Nora Patockova-N
Ruth Priest
Elena & Erik Reppe
Mike Resnick
Lisa Schulz & Ayre Gross
Mike Shea-U
Julie & Stephen Webber-U

DUAL (\$40)

Marty Bracciotti & Joe Selph
Peggy & Tom Burhenn
Valerie & Colin Campbell
Laura & Jon Crook
Dr. Zuzka & Peter Eggena
Janet & Jerry Higgins
Holly Keenan & Jordan Levine
Judee & Curt Kendall
Richard & Laura Lovick-U
Karen & Ronald Millman
John Nagler-N
Mary E. Otis-N
Marcie Sabatella-N

Joan & Kurtwood Smith
Christina & Tim Ticknell-N
Lorna Vartanian & Ruby Sulayan
Ellen & Adrian Velasquez-N
Linda Wang-N
Martha & Brian Wilson-N

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

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Anonymous
Associated Historical Societies
of LA County
Kathryn Begle
Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell
Cynthia Cleary-N
Patricia Dupre, Esq.
Marian Getts-N
Meri Grigoryan
Margaret Hammond
Eric Hansen
Katherine Loeser-N
Clint Lohr-N
Grace Love-N
Doris McKently
Rose Nazarian-N
Ana Lisa Reinoso
Katherine Shiban
Jimmy Smith-N
Richard Spracher-N
Roberta Stone
Warren Thomas
Manuel Valenzuela III
Shelley Velasquez-N
EJ von Schoff-N
William Widener
Katherine Peters Yamada
Erik Yesayan

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Joan & Warren Binzley
Richard Bloch
Jose Cheja

Karan Davies
Sharon Hyder Dorris
Gabriella Doyle
Dollie Ellis-N
Daniel Fagan
Jim Gordon
Marilyn Greborunis
Robin Lee Hansen
Marcie Haug
Dolores Hawkes
Eloise Higgins
Bernadette & Larry Hovland
Valerie Howard
Ben Hubbard
Kumiko & John Mayhew
Eileen Mendoza
Dorothy Montapert
Marilyn Oliver
Alicia Reinoso-N
Robert Rush-N
Michael Sharp
Patricia L. Trytten-N
Varty Vahjian-N
Katherine Wolfe
Catherine Yesayan
Eileen Young

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
U - Upgrading Member

PLEASE CONSIDER A MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE THE NEXT TIME YOU RENEW.

THANK YOU CORPORATE/BUSINESS SPONSORS AND PATRON MEMBERS!

GLENDALE GEM

G&C Properties
The Walt Disney Company

HERITAGE CIRCLE

The Spot Gourmet
Whole Foods Market

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Francesca & Lee Smith
Pam & Keith Sorem
Mana & John Vulchev
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson
Wright Kim Douglas, ALC



2016

EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
7:00 - 10:00 PM

GALA & BENEFIT
Grand Central Air Terminal
Members \$140; Nonmembers: \$190

SATURDAY, JULY 16
2:00 - 4:00 PM

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
Doctors House Museum & Lawn
Members: Free; Guests: \$10

SATURDAY, JULY 23
1:00 - 3:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION

AN EARLY HISTORY TOUR OF TROPICO & FOREST LAWN
Members: \$25/35; Nonmembers: \$35

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

HOME TOUR
Members: \$30/40; Nonmembers: \$40/50

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
6:00 - 9:00 PM

BENEATH THE VEIL
Doctors House Museum
\$8 donation requested

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
6:00 - 9:00 PM

HOLIDAY PARTY
Members: Free; Nonmembers: \$20

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AND 17
6:30 - 8:30 PM

CANDLELIGHT TOURS
Doctors House Museum
\$10 donation requested



*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)