



TGHS Mourns Vrej Mardian

Beloved TGHS Treasurer Vrej Mardian passed away on October 18, 2016 from complications associated with cancer.

Vrej joined the Board of Directors in 2012 as an expression of his commitment to Glendale, its buildings and its history. An architect with 30 years of experience and a former Historic Preservation Commissioner, Vrej was an invaluable advocate for Glendale's historic resources and for the City's responsible identification and treatment of them. And as a member, more recently, of the Design Review Board, he worked to ensure better design in residential and commercial buildings large and small.

At his funeral, his son Austin talked about what it was like to drive around Glendale with his father. Vrej was forever pointing out incompatible alterations to buildings and complaining about variances that some projects received.

Vrej lived four decades in Glendale; it was home, and he loved it. Despite his frequent dismay at the quality of some recent development, he never stopped trying to make Glendale a better, more attractive and vital place for all community members. He possessed an architect's eye and a gentleman's soul; we will all miss his intelligence, good humor and integrity.

To commemorate Vrej's many significant contributions to historic preservation in Glendale, TGHS has renamed its preservation fund in his honor.

An anonymous donor will match contributions to the Vrej Mardian Preservation Fund to \$5,000 through December 31, 2016. You can contribute in memory of the man who dedicated so much of his life to Glendale at <http://www.glendalehistorical.org/preservation-fund>. Or you can mail a check to TGHS P.O. Box 4173 Glendale CA 91202.

TGHS also plans to plant a tree in Vrej's memory at the Doctors House in Brand Park, where he spent many Sunday afternoons as a greeter.

We miss you, Vrej.

City Will Now Select Environmental Review Consultants

On September 20 the Glendale City Council and Housing Authority unanimously approved a policy to have the City, not developers, select the consultants who prepare Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for developments in all commercial, multi-use and industrial areas of Glendale. Developers will continue to bear the costs associated with the EIR because they enjoy the private rewards of the project.

The purpose of an EIR is to protect the public interest by analyzing expected project impacts on traffic, parking, ambient noise and water use as well as historic and natural resources. City selection of the consultant became a signature issue for TGHS three years ago, after the City approved the demolition of a 1930 Mediterranean Revival commercial building at 3901

San Fernando Road based on a fatally flawed historic resources assessment prepared by a developer-selected consultant. The property is one of several older buildings in Glendale that have been lost to development based on this consultant's evaluations.

Prior to the September meeting where the policy change was considered, City Council received dozens of emails, and several community members, primarily from TGHS and homeowner and neighborhood associations, spoke at the meeting about the inherent conflict of interest when developers hire the consultants to review the project-related impacts of their developments.

Moving forward, staff will request proposals from three consultants and make a recommendation, and Council will select the consultant at a public hearing.



Photo: Ron Cressy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Andy Kitchen

I confess: writing this article about “Your Voice Matters” did not come easy for me, particularly on the heels of a presidential election that did not go my way. But then I began to remember that change – real, lasting change – is rarely seismic; rather, it is usually incremental and often moves at what feels like a glacial pace. The fact that a worthy cause falls short does not mean we should give up on it. Rather, it means we must redouble our efforts and work even harder until we prevail.

A few recent TGHS successes prove that point.

The first is City Council’s recent decision to require that the City, not the developer, choose the consultant to prepare a report on the potential environment impacts of a proposed development. It seems so obvious that this is the way it should work, but it

took three years of efforts by TGHS and its members to bring it about.

Back in 2013, a developer proposed to demolish a historic and architecturally significant building at 3901 San Fernando Road. The City, per its policy at the time, permitted the developer to choose the consultant to assess the historical and architectural importance (as well as other potential environmental impacts) of the building to be demolished. Unsurprisingly, the consultant found that the building was not historic or architecturally significant. TGHS countered that assessment with an overwhelming amount of information that demonstrated the building was both historic and architecturally significant. The City Council decided to side with the developer’s consultant, and the building was demolished.

The loss of that building exposed the inherent conflict of interest in having developers hire the people who will pass judgment on the impacts of their projects. TGHS brought this to the attention of the membership, and the membership starting speaking out at every opportunity. At first, members of the City Council were ambivalent about the proposal, but TGHS continued to push for a change in the policy. When the issue came before the City Council in September, TGHS and many of its members spoke up and told the City Council that the policy must change, and Council listened and changed it.

Likewise, your voices mattered when City Council decided to deny a demolition permit for a 1908 Craftsman home at 1420 Valley View Road. TGHS members had been speaking out for months, urging the City to act before the property was destroyed by neglect. When the matter finally came before Council, the overwhelming chorus of TGHS members could not be ignored.

Lastly, for as long as I can remember TGHS and its members have been imploring the City to conduct a citywide survey to identify, assess and evaluate historic resources in Glendale. After several years of making our case on the need for such a survey, City Council, at staff’s recommendation, decided to hire a qualified consultant to conduct a survey of approximately 9,000 properties. This is a huge win because it will help our community better plan for the preservation and development of areas that contain historic resources.

Your voices mattered in these cases – and will continue to matter, but only if you speak out. TGHS may not always succeed on the first, second or even third try, but with your support we will keep pressing forward to advance the cause of historic preservation in Glendale.

Regards,

Greg Grammer

“The fact that a worthy cause falls short does not mean we should give up on it. Rather, it means we must redouble our efforts and work even harder until we prevail.”

PRESIDENT

Greg Grammer
greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Catherine Jurca
catherine.jurca@glendalehistorical.org

SECRETARY

Bruce Merritt
bruce.merritt@glendalehistorical.org

TREASURER

Vrej Mardian

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Laura Crook
laura.crook@glendalehistorical.org
Margaret Hammond
Marcia Hanford
marcia.hanford@glendalehistorical.org
Steve Hunt
steve.hunt@glendalehistorical.org
Francesca Smith
francesca.smith@glendalehistorical.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sean Bersell
sean.bersell@glendalehistorical.org

DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR

Sonia Montejano
sonia.montejano@glendalehistorical.org

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Matthew Letcher
matt@mletcher.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Scott Lasken
scott@stratagemdesigninc.com

Membership: The Perfect Holiday Gift!

Are you looking for that ideal gift for someone who values historic preservation in Glendale as much as you do? Then a one-year membership to TGHS is just the thing, as your gift will also be supporting a great cause! As members, your gift recipients will be able to enjoy all of the same benefits as you:

- Exclusive invitations and discounted ticket prices to tours and special events
- Quarterly newsletter
- Preservation alerts when historic properties are threatened
- Free admission to the Doctors House Museum

Simply log on to www.glendalehistorical.org/join/ to purchase any level of membership under their name, and indicate in the note section that this is a gift by you, along with any personal message you would like to include. Your gift will be mailed out promptly and you can rest easy knowing you just checked off another person off the nice (or naughty) list!

TGHS Beneficiary of Magazine Launch Party

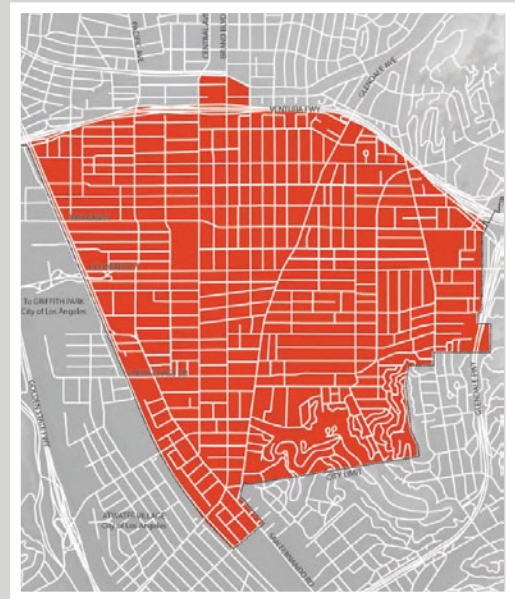
Congratulations to TGHS members Aaron and Devi Reichert on being selected as the cover story for the November issue of *Glendale Hills Living*. We were thrilled and honored that the Reicherts chose TGHS to be the beneficiary of the magazine's fundraising launch party at Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams in the Glendale Galleria. The October 27 event raised \$900 to support TGHS's preservation efforts!



Courtesy of Glendale Hills Living

PRESERVATION UPDATES

City to Prepare Historic Resources Survey for South Glendale



Images Courtesy of the City of Glendale

For years TGHS has advocated for a comprehensive, citywide historic resources survey that would identify eligible properties for local, state and national designation as well as potential historic districts. Historic resource surveys provide important information to property owners and buyers as well as to local governments.

Glendale took a huge step forward when City Council authorized the preparation of a historic resources survey as part of the South Glendale Community Plan, which will guide development in this area for the next three decades. Historic Resources Group (HRG), which prepared the Historic Context Statement for the Community Plan, has been hired to do the Survey, which will include every parcel south of the 134 Freeway and a few blocks north of it between Louise and North Central. All buildings constructed before 2000 will be included.

This ambitious project will be accomplished in a few phases. Around late January, when the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Community Plan is due, a list of all surveyed properties with provisional determinations as to their historic status will be made available for public review and comment.

After a 45-60 day period for public comment, a final draft of the Survey will be presented over the summer; it will include written assessments not only of all properties found to be eligible for designation but also those found ineligible that nonetheless “may warrant

special consideration in local planning.” Such ineligible properties in the past have typically received no “special consideration.” This marks a potentially productive change in the City’s handling of older buildings that may possess special features of merit.

The Survey results will be finalized in Fall 2017, when Council will also be asked to adopt the EIR and the South Glendale Community Plan.

To ensure that all potential historic resources are identified in the Survey, TGHS has created a webpage through which members of the community can put forward buildings they consider historic; TGHS will share likely candidates with HRG and the City. The page can be found at www.glendalehistorical.org/south-glendale-historic-resources-survey.

In addition to providing the building address, you should briefly state why you think the property is historic: information about architects, builders and significant owners and residents are particularly welcome, since this information would not be picked up in an architectural survey. You can also upload historic photos if you have them.

The webpage also has a link to already identified historic resources in South Glendale – there are precious few! – so you can concentrate your efforts on unknown treasures. This is the best chance to identify and preserve historic resources in South Glendale; we can’t know what to save if we don’t know what we have!

EVENTS

Spanish Splendor Home Tour a Splendid Success!



This year's home tour on September 25 brought "Spanish Splendor" to more than 550 guests who toured five period homes constructed in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The Spanish Colonial Revival and Mediterranean Revival homes ranged in size from large to modest, and all showcased significant original details such as wood floors, magnesite floor tiles, hand-stenciled wood beams and tile fireplaces. Stunning colorful bathroom tile was another common feature, in some instances showcasing re-use of original tiles that had been removed for repairs.

It was rewarding to hear comments from several guests who were continuing to learn about topics that had been included in the first TGHS Restoration Expo in May.

Prior to the tour, on September 15 past TGHS President and current Historic Preservation Commission Chair Arlene Vidor presented "¡Viva Glendale! The Spanish Colonial Revival" to a standing-room-only crowd at Brand Library. TGHS is appreciative to Brand Associates for cohosting this informative and entertaining evening.

The annual Home Tour would not be possible without the graciousness of homeowners who open their doors on tour day, plus dozens of volunteers, committee members and sponsors **G&C Properties** and **The Walt Disney Company**.



Commemorative Plaques Fully Restored



In 1984, four years after the Doctors House had been moved from Wilson and Belmont Streets to its current location in Brand Park, six commemorative plaques were commissioned to be placed on the wrought iron fence outside the entrance gate. One plaque explained the history of the

house and the sequence of events that brought it to Brand Park. Another honored City officials who helped in the restoration, including City Council and the Parks and Community Development divisions. Two other plaques honored four levels of benefactors who aided in the restoration between 1980-82 and 1982-84. And the last two honored 100- and 500-hour restoration volunteers who devoted their time to the project between 1980 and 1984.

The plaques themselves had been mounted on wood and attached to the metal fence with bolts. Thirty years later, with daily sprinklers overshooting the lawn and soaking the wood backing, leeching occurred that allowed the paint to slowly flake off of the surface, making each plaque nearly unreadable. Doctors House Museum Curator Peter Rusch approached the company that had made the plaques to see what could be done. Foothill Trophy, the vendor who first sold the plaques to TGHS, was very helpful in researching the process and coming to the conclusion that it was better to refurbish the original plaques than buy new ones.

The process, which took approximately three months, involved dismantling the plaques from the fence, repairing sections of the fence that had completely rusted through and then packing the plaques and sending them to the factory for restoration. This involved cleaning, stripping them down to the original metal, repainting and placing each one on a moving belt sander that gently removed paint only from the raised surface. After the plaques were returned, they were remounted on the fence with no wood surface, making the osmosis that had caused the original damage virtually impossible.

All six plaques are now fully restored and back where they should be, honoring the volunteers, vendors, and city management that supported the Doctors House restoration 36 years ago!



Photo: Ralph Ziegler

Join us for Candlelight Tours

With an impending sense of winter and wonder in the air, the annual Candlelight Tours will take place at the Doctors House Museum from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on two Saturdays, December 10 and 17. The Doctors House will be decked out for a Victorian Christmas, illuminated by candles and kerosene lamps. Guests will enjoy live music and refreshments in the gazebo as well.

No reservation is necessary. Suggested donation is \$10 a person. Proceeds contribute to the maintenance and future exhibits of the museum.



Photo: Ralph Ziegler

A Peek Beneath the Victorian Veil

On the evening of Saturday, October 29 the curious came out to the Doctors House Museum to learn about the mourning traditions and superstitions of the Victorian Era. Once there, they were greeted by volunteers who played the role of consoling neighbors and friends of a bereaved widow who had recently lost her beloved husband, a Civil War veteran. A military guard stood next to his casket during the wake while an organist played somber music. In the dining room a séance took place, uncovering family secrets and scandal. Guests also learned about the Victorian fear of being buried alive and how people at the time remembered those who had passed.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: AUGUST 2016 - OCTOBER 2016

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Steven Chapman &
Ricardo Ordoñez
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Sue & Alan Hunter - U
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Greg Grammer & Simon Wright

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Reem Baroody - N
Sue & John Clauss
Christie & Sean Crahan
Marcia Hanford
Shaye Harber - N
Joe Lo Truglio
Tammy & John O'Connor - U
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann
Joemy Wilson & Jon Harvey

SUSTAINING (\$50)

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Chevy Chase Estates
Homeowners Association
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Carol & Sherry Koopman
Erik Lynxwiler - N
Nancy & Richard Mancini
James Moore - U
Stacy Niss-Sartor - U

Vanessa O'Brien
Ruth Priest
Christina Rizzo & Ely Lester
April & Georges Rouveyrol - U
Elaine & Kurt Sawitskas - U
Raymond Shinn - U
Mary Margaret Smith - U
Susan Wolfson

DUAL (\$40)

Margie & Rick Barnes
Diana Brand & Dr. Terence Kiebar - N
Daniel Brotman - N
Judy & Dan Cabrera
Alvaro Cardenas & Daniel McQueen
Michael Cizmar - N
Melanie & Kevin Doody
Paul Dupree
Nancy & Allan Durham - N
Lisa & Paul Dyson
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Janna & Craig Gosselin - N
Albert Hernandez - N
Christina & Patrick Ross
Mary & Don Savarese
Jane Sheldon & Josh Grayson - N
Victoria Shepherd - N
Cindy & Bill Slaughter - N
Beth Tapper & Mitch Watson
Leigh Ann & Pete Vanderveen - U
Desiree De Bond Vargas &
Wilhelm Vargas - N

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Miklos Albert - N
Andrew Allison
Dana Robert Amann
Carol Attarian
Christopher T. Brown

Liz Brown - N
Cindy Charles
Rebecca Cicoria - N
Cliff Claycomb - N
Susan Dasso - U
Jackie Davis
Morgan Doran - N
Dorothy Eriksen
Susan Gilmore - N
Bruce Hale
Eric Hansen
Linda Hinz - N
Los Angeles Public Library
Connie Monroe - N
Monica Neighbors
Eileen Rose
Shant Sahakian
Martha Thompson
Richard Threlkeld
Eileen Wallis
Sandra Weggeland
Stephan John Zupkas

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Betty Albu
Alice Allen - N
Diana Alvarez - N
Minerva Astengo
Dorothy Jean Black - N
Pat Burns
Rita Cárdenas
Lois Comeau - N
Ava Corrado - N
Saundra Costa - N
Sallie Coughlin - N
Sally Currie - N
John Drayman
Constance Fosso
Lyn Foster
Ray Frauenholz

Blair Gordon
Franklin Greenwalt
John C. Hammell, Jr.
G Hampton
Marcie Haug
Kay Heitzman
Gwen & Jim Hinton
Martine & George James
Mady Julian
Linda A. Kringle
Marie Clause Lavick
Irene Munafo
Wendy Myers
Valerie & Brad Nelson - N
Diane Spurlock
Peggy Steppe - N
Diane Thomas
Armen Toutloughian - N
Denise Walker

NOT-FOR-PROFIT (\$35)

Museum of Neon Art - N

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!

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EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 10 AND 17 **6:30 - 8:30 PM**

CANDLELIGHT TOURS
Doctors House Museum, Brand Park
1601 West Mountain Street
\$10 donation requested; FREE for TGHS members

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

VICTORIAN EASTER
Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park
1601 West Mountain Street
\$8 donation requested

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

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

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017

ANNUAL MEETING
Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park
1601 West Mountain Street
FREE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 **10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

HOME TOUR



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