



## Kiefer & Eyerick Mortuary Designated Historic Landmark

The newest addition to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources is the Kiefer & Eyerick Mortuary (GR No. 123), located at 314 East Harvard Street. On February 27, the Glendale City Council unanimously approved the landmark nomination following an enthusiastic recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission.

Constructed in 1928 and designed by noted Glendale architect Alfred F. Priest, the building is an eye-catching example of a commercial building in the Tudor Revival style. It operated as a mortuary from 1928 until 2002, when the building was acquired by the Assistance League of Glendale.

Since that time, the Assistance League has maintained its headquarters in the former mortuary building and used the former garage at the rear for its Thrift Alley resale store.

TGHS was pleased to help the Assistance League in preparing the application and to support the designation of this local architectural treasure.

## Glendale Strengthens Penalties for Illegal Demolition

Following the illegal demolition in February of a historic 1908 Craftsman residence that was located at 1420 Valley View Road, TGHS asked the City of Glendale to amend its municipal code to strengthen the remedies for illegal demolition of a historic resource in order to provide greater deterrence.

At its May 8 meeting, the Glendale City Council responded by unanimously directing City staff to prepare a package of proposed changes to the code designed to make the cost of unpermitted demolition of a historic resource high enough to deter anyone from undertaking it.

Currently, if someone illegally demolishes a structure that is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources, the California Register or the National Register, they are banned from rebuilding on the property for three years. The most important provision in the proposed changes that Council directed City staff to prepare is that, in addition to Register properties, the three-year ban and other remedies would apply to unpermitted demolition of properties found eligible for the Glendale Register (as 1420 Valley View was) and “contributors” to a historic district.

A second key element of the package would state that when an individual who demolishes a historic resource without a

permit does rebuild, the new structure must maintain the footprint of the structure that was illegally demolished and can be no larger or taller than the original structure. Since many times a historic resource is demolished to make way for a larger development, this provision would prevent violators from benefitting economically from the demolition.

A third provision of note is that partial demolition, “demolition by neglect” and unpermitted alterations would be considered violations of the demolition ordinance, and in such cases the property owner would be required to reconstruct the building to its prior appearance.

Fourth, a vacant lot would have to be maintained so that it does not become an eyesore for the neighborhood, and it could not be converted to parking or any other economic use during the moratorium period.

Finally, Council also directed staff to include civil penalties in the package of proposed changes.

City staff will take these concepts and draft them into proposed ordinance language. The changes will then be reviewed by Glendale’s Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Commission prior to being brought before City Council for approval.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Andy Kitchen

In the last issue of this newsletter, I shared the exciting news that a second house designed by renowned architect Paul Revere Williams was identified in Glendale. Schlosser House, a magnificent 1925 Spanish Colonial Revival located in the Adams Hill neighborhood, joined Baird House, a beautifully intact

1926 Spanish Colonial Revival, on a very short list of homes in the Jewel City designed by the prominent architect.

***“In the span of three months, we’ve gone from two to four – and possibly five – known [Paul R.] Williams-designed homes in Glendale”***

Williams was the first African American Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and designed homes for many Hollywood stars, including Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz and Frank Sinatra, as well as such significant landmarks as the Los Angeles County Courthouse, Saks Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills, the First A.M.E. Church and the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building. While Williams designed many homes in the neighboring cities of Los Angeles and La Cañada-Flintridge, there were just the two located in Glendale – or so we thought.

Since the publication of our Spring 2018 Newsletter, I am pleased to announce that more homes designed by Williams have been “discovered” in Glendale. It is worth noting that confirming the existence of previously unidentified Williams homes is no easy task given that the architect’s records were destroyed in the 1992 L.A. riots. But thanks to the remarkable detective work of a TGHS member we have been able to confirm two and possibly three more homes in Glendale designed by Williams.

The first is Cunningham House, a lovely 1922 Mediterranean Revival located in the proposed

Casa Verdugo Historic District. Williams was licensed as an architect in 1921, which makes this house one of his earliest commissions.

The second home, another early commission by Williams, is the 1922 Arnoll House. Located on West Kenneth Road, the home was remodeled in 1981 to include a new entryway, resulting in what appears to be a major alteration to the front façade.

The third home, F.H. Wallace House, a magnificent 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival located in the Bellehurst Hillslopes neighborhood, had long been believed to be designed by Williams. But we were unable to locate any supporting documentation, as the City of Glendale’s building permit file was incomplete. We recently discovered that the home’s address had changed years after the house was built, and we were able to locate the original building permit file, which indicates that the home’s original owner was Mrs. F.H. Wallace, for whom Williams prepared plans for a house in Glendale in 1925, three years before construction of the F.H. Wallace house was completed. We continue to investigate this house, but it seems likely that it is the work of this master architect.

In the span of three months, we’ve gone from two to four – and possibly five – known Williams-designed homes in Glendale!

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On a separate note, I would like to acknowledge Clara Ruth Priest, who passed away on February 22 in Santa Barbara just nine days shy of her 100th birthday.

Not only was Miss Priest our oldest member (that we are aware of), but she also was the daughter of noted Glendale architect Alfred F. Priest (Hoover High School, Kiefer & Eyerick Mortuary, Security Trust and Savings Building) and a proud promoter of his legacy. A Glendale native, she also designed her own superb 1950 Mid-century Modern home in Glendale. My deepest condolences to Miss Priest’s family and friends.

Regards,

*Greg Grammer*

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## Tickets on Sale for Annual Gala & Benefit

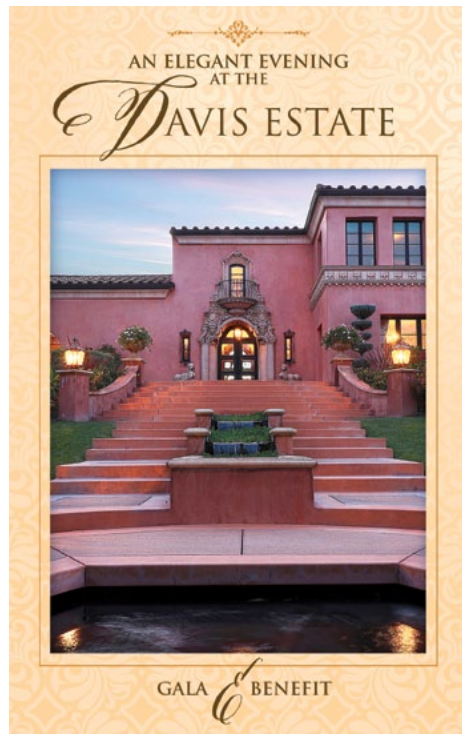


Photo: Matthew Letcher | Design: Scott Lasken

**Y**ou are cordially invited to The Glendale Historical Society's Gala & Benefit, *An Elegant Evening at the Davis Estate*, on June 30 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

The Davis Estate is an impressive and secluded Italian Renaissance Revival home built in 1925 for Leonard C. Davis and his wife, Clara. Mr. Davis was the owner and president of Glendale's Grand View Memorial Park. The original subdivision map calls the area where the Davis Estate is located "Garden Circle." The grounds live up to the name and exemplify the quintessential Southern California estate of the 1920s.

Sponsored by **The Walt Disney Company** and **G&C Properties**, this fun and festive evening will feature delicious hors d'oeuvres, specialty cocktails and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Society's endowment and preservation funds.

At the event, TGHS will also present its annual awards in recognition of outstanding achievements in historic preservation and volunteer service. The recipient of the 2018 Preservation Award is the **Assistance League of Glendale** for its exceptional stewardship of the Kiefer & Eyerick Mortuary building, which was listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources earlier this year (see page 1).

The recipients of this year's Volunteer Award are **Robert Gordon** and **Matthew Letcher**.

Since 2016, Robert Gordon has led the effort to organize the annual Restoration Expo, a free community event that provides valuable information and resources to homeowners interested in preserving and maintaining their vintage properties. For the past four years, Robert has also coordinated the silent auction at the Gala & Benefit to raise much-needed funds to support TGHS's preservation efforts and endowment fund.

Matthew Letcher has helped advance the cause of historic preservation through his beautiful photography and graphic design work, spending countless hours preparing educational and promotional materials for TGHS, including this quarterly newsletter.

Tickets to the Gala & Benefit are \$125 for TGHS Members and \$150 for the general public. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.GlendaleHistorical.org](http://www.GlendaleHistorical.org) or by sending a check to The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202.

The Gala & Benefit is black tie optional.

For further information, please contact [events@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:events@glendalehistorical.org) or 818-242-7447.



# EVENTS

## Taste of Spain Welcomes 40 New and Upgraded Members



This year's annual Taste of Spain soiree, the culmination of a month-long membership drive, was held on Saturday, April 30, at a 1928 Mediterranean Revival home in the Royal Boulevard Historic District.

Nearly 140 guests, including 34 new members, mingled and enjoyed an assortment of delicious food from Trejo's Cantina, plus a selection of Spanish wines and beers. A bonus was viewing many original features in some of the rooms, including the tile and bathtub in the upstairs bathroom.

Many thanks to hosts Amanda and Jeff Georgino for generously opening their beautiful home for this year's event!

## Restoration Expo Offers Valuable Resources

More than 250 local residents interested in preserving the original character and charm of their historic homes visited the Glendale Civic Auditorium on May 6 for the third annual Restoration Expo. The event was organized by TGHS in coordination with National Preservation Month.

Free and open to the public, the event featured dozens of exhibitor booths and inspiring guest speakers offering valuable advice and access to important resources on such topics as: energy efficiency in historic homes; window restoration and repair; vintage and reproduction tile and hardware; architecturally compatible additions and accessory dwelling units; historic paint colors; and native California landscapes.

TGHS is grateful to the generous supporters who made the event possible: Mahogany Sponsors **berkley, lander & lamprecht group | deasy/penner & partners, DIGGS Glendale, Dunn-Edwards Paints, Hartman Baldwin Design/Build** and **The Walt Disney Company**; and Oak Sponsors **Architectural Resources Group** and **Silverlake Conservation**.

All Expo participants are listed on the Restoration Resources page of TGHS's website at [www.glendalehistorical.org/restoration-resources-2018](http://www.glendalehistorical.org/restoration-resources-2018).



DUNN-EDWARDS PAINTS



REVIVAL ARTS RESTORATION



WINDOW SURGEON



ERIC'S ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

## Walking Tours in Historic Neighborhoods

TGHS members hit the pavement three times early this year. On February 24, a walking tour of the Niodrara Drive Historic District showcased history, landscaping and homes that span several decades. TGHS Vice President Catherine Jurca, who spearheaded the District's nomination, led the tour.

TGHS member Scott Smissen led two tours on March 10, covering a few blocks of the Cumberland Heights area that were considered for Glendale's first historic district. Ultimately three smaller districts were identified in the neighborhood. Mother Nature's rare rainfall that day thoughtfully dodged our intrepid participants.

# EVENTS

## Historic District Workshop Touts Virtues of Neighborhood Preservation



On February 21 TGHS presented a workshop on Historic Districts at Brand Library and Art Center. With demolitions and “mansionization” on the rise in Glendale, about 30 residents attended to learn about the benefits of historic districts.

Not only do historic districts help to ensure better, more compatible design, but properties within historic districts appreciate at rates faster than the local real estate market overall as well as faster than similar, non-designated neighborhoods, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. And contributors to historic districts in need of restoration and repair in Glendale now qualify for Mills Act property tax benefits.

TGHS Vice President Catherine Jurca provided tips on how to research historic districts; the City also publishes a useful brochure, “Glendale Historical Research Guide,” that can be downloaded online. Executive Director Sean Bersell talked about how to generate community support for a historic district in a neighborhood. And prominent local Realtor Gerri Cragnotti, whose company G&C Properties is a long-time supporter of TGHS, discussed the history of the effort to create historic districts in Glendale, which she helped spearhead.

Attendees expressed interest in creating historic districts in the Bellehurst Park and El Miradero neighborhoods, along Melwood Drive and on a hillside block of Allen Avenue developed with one-story ranch houses in the mid-1950s and originally subdivided by Glendale mayor George Wickham.

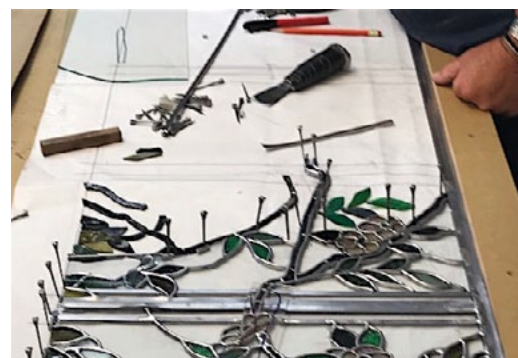
For those thinking about creating a historic district, there is no need to wait for another workshop: reach out to TGHS for assistance at any time throughout the year. TGHS also provides grants to cover roughly half the cost of the application fee (about \$2300) in recognition that historic districts are the most effective tool to preserve the character and quality of older neighborhoods.

## TGHS and Forest Lawn Offer Stained Glass Tour

On Saturday, April 21, TGHS partnered with Forest Lawn-Glendale to provide a truly unique experience. The “Art of Crafting Stained Glass” tour started in the Little Church of the Flowers, where attendees were greeted by TGHS member Don Snyder and Forest Lawn representatives. They learned the history of the church, which was commissioned by Dr. Hubert Eaton in 1917. Special attention was paid to the Tree of Life stained glass, backlit by the outside sun – which gave it a special brilliance during the tour.

Next, attendees took a short walk to the Stained Glass Studio in the backstage area of Forest Lawn not open to the public. There, attendees got an up-close view of the process to restore stained glass from Fergus, one of two employees who repair, restore and create stained glass for all Forest Lawn Parks in Southern California. Fergus, who has been with Forest Lawn for 25 years, grew up in Ireland, where he embraced the family business of creating and restoring stained glass.

With much anticipation, the tour moved to the Great Mausoleum where a 4' x 9' piece of stained glass titled the “Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven” was on display. This piece of work was created in 1913 and was once part of Saint Josephs’ Catholic Cathedral in Buffalo, New York. It’s now part of the extensive archives of Forest Lawn and has never been exhibited to the general public.





## Community Gathers at Doctors House for Victorian Easter

“**W**hat excitement!” proclaimed the Easter Bunny as she visited the Doctors House Museum for TGHS’s annual Victorian Easter on March 25.

Nearly 350 members of the community put on their Sunday best and hopped on over to Brand Park to join TGHS in celebrating the Spring season. More than 1000 eggs were gathered by children of all ages, and the event featured handmade ice cream, old-fashioned crafts and lawn games, an entertaining puppet show and tours of the Doctors House.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who put together this fantastic community event every year on the Sunday before Easter.



## TGHS Dedicates Tree in Memory of Vrej Mardian



**O**n Sunday, February 25, friends and family gathered near the Doctors House Gazebo at Brand Park for a tree dedication ceremony to celebrate the life of Vrej Mardian.

Vrej served on the Board of Directors from 2012 until his untimely death on October 18, 2016. In addition to serving as TGHS Treasurer, Vrej was responsible for coordinating the Speakers Bureau and was an active volunteer at many TGHS events and activities. Prior to joining the Board, Vrej served on Glendale’s Historic Preservation Commission from 2005 to 2011, including two terms as Chair.

TGHS purchased a Mayten tree, an evergreen native from South America that will grow up to 66 feet, as part of the City of Glendale’s Arbor Day program and requested that it be planted near the Doctors House, where Vrej spent many Sundays welcoming guests to the house museum.





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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30**  
**7:00 - 10:00 PM**

GALA & BENEFIT  
"AN ELEGANT EVENING AT THE DAVIS ESTATE"  
\$125 Members; \$150 General Public  
Tickets: [www.glendalehistorical.org/gala-benefit-2018/](http://www.glendalehistorical.org/gala-benefit-2018/)

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
**7:00 PM**

"A ROMP THROUGH THE REVIVALS  
- HOLLYWOOD'S EUROPEAN FANTASYLAND"  
Presentation and Slideshow by Arlene Vidor  
Downtown Central Library Auditorium  
222 East Harvard Street  
FREE; No RSVP required

**SATURDAY, JULY 21**  
**1:00 - 3:00 PM**

ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER SOCIAL  
Doctors House Museum and Gazebo  
1601 West Mountain Street  
FREE to members; \$10 Guests  
RSVP required: [events@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:events@glendalehistorical.org)

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

"ROYAL REVIVALS" HOME TOUR  
\$30/\$35 Members; \$40/\$45 General Public  
Tickets on sale in mid-August



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)