

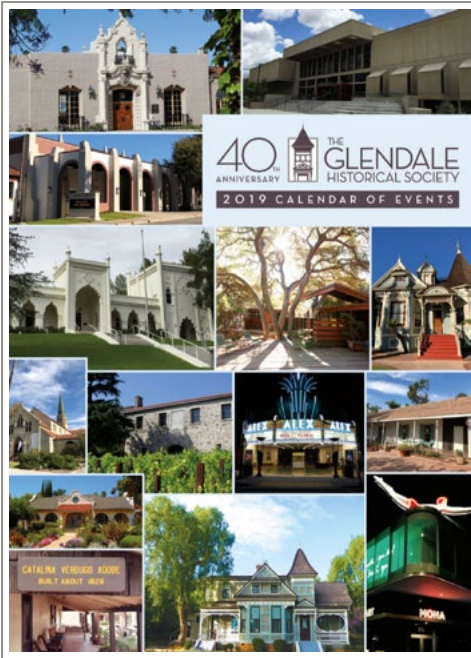
TGHS CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Glendale Historical Society is excited to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2019 and has planned a yearlong series of tours, lectures, educational activities, programs and special events at historic places to commemorate this milestone.

This year will include signature events such as the annual Taste of Spain soiree, Restoration Expo and Home Tour, as well as several new and exciting activities, including The Secret Gardens of Forest Lawn Lecture & Tour, Wine Tasting at the historic Le Mesnager Stone Barn at Deukmejian Wilderness Park and an Ecclesiastical Architecture Tour of the churches on North Brand Boulevard – just to name a few.

This summer, TGHS will host a 40th Anniversary Gala & Benefit at a magnificent historic property and celebrate four decades of accomplishment at a special Annual Meeting & Summer Social at the Doctors House, the birthplace of Glendale’s preservation movement.

A 2019 Calendar booklet was distributed to all TGHS members and will be made available at events throughout the year. For more information, visit www.glendalehistorical.org/40th-anniversary-of-tghs.



Schaffer House Scores Local Landmark Status

The most recent addition to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources is Schaffer House, a remarkable Mid-century Modern single-family home designed by master architect John Lautner. On December 11, 2018, the Glendale City Council unanimously approved the landmark nomination following a wholehearted recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission.



Built in 1949, Schaffer House is a one-story, wood frame and brick masonry structure characterized by its horizontal emphasis, alternating bands of glass and redwood siding and spaces that blur the lines between indoors and outdoors. The house has a “v”-shaped plan, with the open end facing the street, and

a series of low-pitched, asymmetrical gable and shed roofs with open eaves, wood fascias and several skylights.

The house gained national and international recognition after being cast, along with actor Colin Firth, as the star of *A Single Man* (2009), directed by fashion designer Tom Ford.

The Glendale Historical Society actively supported the nomination of this architectural gem and was pleased to have assisted with the preparation of the Glendale Register application. The owner also entered into a “Mills Act” contract with the City, which provides a significant property tax reduction so that the savings can assist with the preservation and ongoing maintenance of the home.

Schaffer House has also been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Ride the Red Cars to Glendale with Paul Ayers

Did you know that whenever you see a building with a curving façade on a busy corner, there was probably a trolley track there at one time? Did you ever consider how Glendale’s old viaducts shaped some of our streets today? These bits of “trolley archeology” came to life on January 30 at the Downtown Library, as historian Paul Ayers kicked off TGHS’s 40th anniversary year with a delightful slide presentation entitled *Ride the Red Cars to Glendale*.

See “*Ride the Red Cars to Glendale with Paul Ayers*” on page 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Irmina Hamilton

Our 40th Anniversary celebration is off to a great and entertaining start. Heartfelt thanks go to Immediate Past President Greg Grammer and his committee for planning this year's many special activities and for putting together the 40th Anniversary Calendar of Events. And a special thanks to TGHS volunteers Scott Lasken for designing

the beautiful calendar booklet and David Eisenberg for creating the timeline.

“This will be a great year filled with many interesting, informative and fun-filled events. But preservation remains our number-one goal.”

Articles on activities in January and February are in this issue. March will be a very busy month, starting with a special Raising the Bar in Montrose, followed by a lecture and tour of the Alex Theatre and a concert by Cantabile, as part of the international Bach in the Subways celebration, at Glendale's nationally registered train station. In addition, we will have three events at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, beginning with a lecture on the history of the park and ending with a tour of several beautiful gardens and a visit to their special exhibit “Women of Vision.” Plan ahead! March promises to be our busiest month in 2019.

Of course, TGHS needs volunteers to make all these wonderful activities happen. We will soon send out a Constant Contact message that will allow you to review the events scheduled for 2019 and to sign up to join us in the ones that interest you most. Just ask any volunteer: our functions become more meaningful and enjoyable when you participate in their planning and execution.

This will be a great year filled with many interesting, informative and fun-filled events. But preservation remains our number-one goal. Our forty years of preservation, through collaborative efforts with City officials and staff, neighborhoods, property owners and other organizations, have resulted in establishing and strengthening Glendale's preservation ordinances, saving a number of important buildings from demolition, the designation of more than 100 historic landmarks and the creation of seven historic districts, with three more in process.

Our 780 members (a record number!) can be proud of 40 years of accomplishments. TGHS has enjoyed many successes, along with some hard-fought battles that did not go our way. We will remain focused on those successes and hope to have many more in the decades to come.

On a personal note: Congratulations from all of us at TGHS to Board Member and Treasurer Zara Rostomian and Varand Balasanian on the birth of their son, William, on February 2, 2019!

Regards,

Steve Hunt

Vrej Mardian Preservation Fund Update

Last year ended with over \$3,500 in contributions to the Vrej Mardian Preservation Fund, named in honor of TGHS's former Board Member and Treasurer, who passed away in 2016. An anonymous donor offered to match end-of-year contributions up to \$5,000.

The Society is grateful to all who contributed in Mardian's memory. He was a passionate, lifelong advocate for preservation in Glendale.

Donations to the Preservation Fund support the cost of legal assistance in evaluating projects before the City and challenging those projects where appropriate. It provides funding to offset the cost of historic district applications and has paid for historic preservation consultants to aid in the nomination of properties to the Glendale and California registers.

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Hilary Sbei Signs On as TGHS Membership Coordinator

The Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Hilary Sbei as TGHS's new Membership Coordinator. Her duties will include processing membership renewals and new memberships, and preparing regular membership reports.



Hilary Sbei

Photo: Corinne Ryan

Sbei has always loved the classics.

Be it watching *Singin' in the Rain*

or studying Martha Graham technique, she has always had a fascination with the past. Her background is in dance, but she also has a passion for technology, coding, sewing and the importance of preserving the past for the future. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2015, she has enjoyed advocating for historic preservation through her TGHS membership and participation. Sbei is a docent at the Doctors House and a regular volunteer at TGHS events.

We congratulate and welcome Hilary Sbei to this important new position!

TGHS Attorney Amy Minter Makes Partner



Amy Minter

Congratulations to Amy Minter, who recently made partner at the newly re-christened environmental law firm Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter. TGHS regularly consults with Minter on its preservation advocacy efforts and all things CEQA. She has provided invaluable assistance on numerous projects in Glendale. This important promotion and recognition of her work is very well deserved.

"Ride the Red Cars to Glendale with Paul Ayers"
Continued from front page.

The capacity audience enjoyed a nostalgic journey from Los Angeles to Glendale, featuring over 240 images that covered the beginning of Pacific Electric's Glendale Line until its last day of service on July 19, 1955. Ayers was there on that final day, a wide-eyed three-year-old dangling his arms out the back of a PE car, in photos taken by his uncle, Loren Ayers. His father, cousin and sister were also along for the historic ride.

An attorney by profession, Ayers has a deep interest in the history of Southern California. Besides the Red Cars, his primary research fields include silent movie locations and 19th-century roads and trails. His February 28 talk for TGHS explored Glendale locations seen in the films of Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd.

Balconies at 107 N. Columbus Avenue To Be Preserved

In December, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) unanimously voted against a proposal to enclose three second-story balconies at a 1925 Mediterranean Revival multi-family property at 107 North Columbus Avenue, recently found eligible for the Glendale Register in the South Glendale Survey.



The property features a rare pair of two-story fourplexes, identified as “Graceland” in a lovely arched sign between the buildings. The project would have enclosed the balconies with wood windows (one balcony was previously enclosed). Staff recommended approval, but TGHS objected, noting that the balconies are character-defining features of the buildings and the work did not comply with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, which states that “the alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.”

TGHS also pointed out that when making a determination of eligibility in the recent Survey, the consultant and staff considered the enclosure of just part of a house’s porch, even for properties more than one hundred years old and even if the work was performed shortly after the home’s construction, sufficient to disqualify it as a historic resource.

The HPC’s decision was advisory to the Design Review Board, because the property is not yet listed on the Glendale Register, but the owners have decided not to pursue it further. The Glendale Historical Society commends the HPC for its thoughtful vote to preserve these character-defining features.



Why “Clicko” House Matters

In December, the Design Review Board (DRB) voted unanimously to approve the demolition of 1442 Montgomery Avenue, where noted circus performer Franz Taibosh, aka Clicko, the Wild Dancing Bushman, lived briefly in 1938-1939. This is the earliest known, extant Glendale residence of an African American who did not work where he or she lived; a handful of other such buildings, occupied earlier, have all been demolished. Our Fall 2018 newsletter article described Taibosh’s career and provided details concerning his tenancy in Glendale as well as information about African Americans in the city from 1910 to 1940, when the black population never rose above one-tenth of one percent and the vast majority were female domestic servants.

Anyone reading this newsletter loves beautiful buildings. Glendale has its fair share: the Alex Theatre, Ard Eevin, the Brand Library (El Miradero) and the Central Post Office, to name a few.

But we preserve historic buildings—we consider their preservation a meaningful public good—not simply for the aesthetic value associated with architectural treasures but also as tangible reminders of how and why communities took shape the way they did. By connecting us to the past, they inform us about our present and offer lessons for the future. They are social and cultural artifacts of enduring significance.

The past isn’t always pretty; nor are the houses that illuminate it. “Clicko” House is an unremarkable Spanish Eclectic bungalow by any measure. However, TGHS contends that the property is historically significant for its direct association with a period when Glendale was intensely racially restricted. Half a dozen qualified architectural historians wrote to the City in support of the Society’s position; in addition, two architectural historians and an environmental planner attended the meeting to argue for the historic importance of this property. TGHS and the experts advocated that the owner be allowed to expand the house in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation but not demolish it.

Unfortunately, the DRB deferred to City staff and approved demolition of the home. Staff deplored Glendale’s racist past, which was infamous even by the standards of the day. However, they expressed disappointment in TGHS’s efforts to single out this property as historic because of its association with that past: “the suggestion that 1442 Montgomery is significant because a ‘black man of note’ lived there...diminishes the importance of those families throughout the country who bravely and knowingly crossed ‘color lines’ to assert their equal right of homeownership.” The Society’s position also “discounts the multitudes of long-time Los Angeles-area residents who routinely suffered the indignity of racial discrimination in housing.” *Continued on page 5.*

PRESERVATION UPDATES

“Why “Clicko” House Matters” Continued from page 4.

TGHS’s position discounts and diminishes nothing. To suggest that it does irreducibly flattens the texture and complexity of the African American experience in Glendale and beyond. To make active struggles against discrimination the standard for significance places an inexcusable burden on historic African American actors to have fought for what white people have taken for granted.

Taibosh was not a “long-time” local, but he was a documented black resident constrained by Glendale’s ferocious exclusionary policies, which he evaded, and the house he lived in possesses sufficient integrity to communicate that moment in time. The history of the African American experience in Glendale and in “sundown towns” across the country has everything to do with the fact that many years ago, a once-famous but now little-remembered black man had to hide from his neighbors while living here.

Unfortunately, unless a property is visibly exceptional or extremely old, Glendale does not routinely perform or require any research into previous owners and occupants who may have significantly contributed to the history of the city, region, state or nation before it approves significant alterations or demolition. It also does not perform or require research into important events that may have taken place at the property, or whether a property is associated with important contributions to the cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the nation, state or city. Meeting any one of the above criteria makes a property eligible for the Glendale Register, precisely because architecture is not the only measure of a building’s cultural meaning. But you can’t tell just by looking. It was TGHS who discovered Taibosh’s tenancy at the property and brought it to the City’s attention. The Society believes it is the City’s responsibility to ensure that its historic resources are identified and that a proper process be followed in handling projects involving them.

As William Faulkner memorably put it: “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” The legacy of citywide discrimination, which precluded the creation of local African American institutions and a social infrastructure, helps to explain why their population in Glendale did not climb above 1.3 percent. The past is never dead, but it doesn’t need to dictate the future. Unfortunately, we will have to remember that past now in the absence of any known physical reminders of it.

DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM



Christmas Cheer at Doctors House Candlelight Tours

Over 400 members of the community visited the Doctors House Museum for two candlelit evenings of Victorian Christmas charm. Lavish decorations illustrated this year’s theme, “Candy Canes and Crystals,” lending a special holiday sparkle to the Queen Anne-Eastlake home.

On December 8, Board Member and Museum Director Laura Crook led a group of costumed docents in a carol sing. On December 15, La Crescenta High School Madrigal Choir provided the holiday music. Special visitors included some 20 family members of Audrey Hales, one of the original curators of the Museum’s collections. TGHS is grateful to all the dedicated docents and Board members who participated, with extra thanks to Galen Wilkes and his Magic Lantern, Doctors House Docent Robin Lee Hansen and Curator Peter Rusch for their hard work and creativity.



Hales family members with Laura Crook

E V E N T S

TGHS Holds Holiday Party at Historic Venue



On December 1, TGHS held its annual Holiday Party at the Kiefer & Eyerick Mortuary building, which was added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources in 2018. Designed by noted local architect Alfred F. Priest, this spectacular 1928 landmark operated as a mortuary until 2002, when it was acquired by the Assistance League of Glendale.

Arriving guests were greeted by TGHS docents Jeri Anderson and Anne Galiana, who pointed out salient features of the Tudor Revival edifice, such as the soaring vertical lines, slate roof and decorative brick façade. Over 150 TGHS members and their guests attended the event, which was co-chaired by Anne McDonald and TGHS Board Member Marcia Hanford. Ellen Eyerick was introduced and welcomed everyone to her grandfather John Eyerick's old place of business.

TGHS's former Executive Director, Sean Bersell, gave a lively address on the architecture and history of the site, noting that it cost \$50,000 to build. He also congratulated the Assistance League for their stewardship of the building. "We often speak in historic preservation of adaptive reuse; this is a wonderful, wonderful example of adaptive reuse," Bersell declared to warm applause.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous appetizer and dessert buffet, an open bar and superb entertainment by TGHS member Don Synder, who played holiday tunes and other favorites on the piano. Assistance League volunteers opened their store, Thrift Alley, for holiday shopping. Business was brisk as partygoers took advantage of the special after-hours access to the popular, well-stocked thrift store.



Photo: Russell Harnden III

A Special Raising the Bar at Damon's

On February 5, fifty-four TGHS members checked into the Tiki Room at Damon's, Glendale's beloved old-school steakhouse, for a private three-course dinner, while many others mingled at the bar. TGHS's first Raising the Bar of the year was full of laughter and nostalgia as Sean Bersell, former Executive Director of TGHS, delivered a delightful talk about the history of Damon's, which was established in 1937 on Central Avenue by Loyal and Mona Damon. That building was demolished in 1980 to make way for the Glendale Galleria expansion and rebuilt in just a few days on Brand Boulevard. The original Polynesia-themed murals could not be salvaged, but the artist, Bettine Rakita, re-painted them in the present location.

Several attendees responded to Bersell's request for comments with fond memories of date nights at Damon's—and the beginning of long-term relationships—over the decades. Damon's employees are also known for longevity. One of the evening's servers volunteered that she had been there for 25 years.

In honor of TGHS's 40th anniversary, Damon's created a special cocktail, the Glendale Ruby, a gorgeous and potent mix featuring vodka and pomegranate juice, offered throughout the month of February. Proceeds from the drink's sales will be donated to the Society.

In addition to Bersell, TGHS is most grateful to volunteer Cathy Grayson, Board Member Laura Crook and President Steve Hunt for their hard work in creating such a memorable evening. The Society salutes Damon's owners Vigen and Houry Ghazarian, Craig Missakian and Annmarie Tollar for their invaluable partnership.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: NOVEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

GOODE PATRON (\$2500)

Catherine Jurca & Scott Fraser

SAN RAFAEL PATRON (\$1000)

Sean Bersell & Heather Norris

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

The Bunt Family

Dana Doyle

& Eric Van Der Werff

Pam & Jim Elyea

Art Fisher & William Shepherd

Francesca & Lee Smith

TROPICO (\$100)

John Alaimo - U

Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen

Joe Lo Truglio

Paul Lombardi

Stacey & Darren Merritt

Catherine & Martin Montoro

Vic Pallos

Katherine Pera

& Louis Goldstein - N

Patty Silversher

Jeanette & Marc Stirdivant

HOUSEHOLD (\$50)

Estee & Wesley Avery - N

Kathryn & Peter Brunet - N

Dora & Bob Beadles

Alvaro Cardenas

& Daniel McQueen - U

Lisa & Paul Dyson

Gary Garnick & Stephen Parker

Joyce & John Goodwin

Cathy & Douglas Green

Elise & Lawrence Kalfayan - N

Maria & Paul Kaye

Valerie & Brad Nelson - U

Victoria Shepherd

Joyce & Richard Tanzer

Yvonne Sone - N

Leann & William Warner - U

NONPROFIT (\$35)

Hannah Lazarus

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Francis Appiah - N

Janet Bonifer - N

Russell Cinque, Jr.

Kate Eberle - N

Ray Frauenholz

Susan Gilmore

Wendy Gish

Sophia Kelley - N

Caroline McDougal Helmuth

John Kociemba

Renee Leask

Trevor Marca

Michael Masterson

Joan Morris

Josephine Moukhtar

Adryan Russ

Annie Sarraffian - N

Hilary Sbei

David Schmidt - N

Jeptha Storm - N

Susan Sylvis

Kimberly Burns Turner

Pat & John Wright - U

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Sharyn Bess

Deborah Boone - N

Jay Butler

Bonnie Cox - N

Dr. Francisco Gonzalez-Scarano - N

Tamara Hughes - N

Rhodora Marina L. Maligalig

Mercedes McDonald - N

Grant Mudford

Gail & Carl Nelson

Marilyn Oliver

Donna & Gary Petersen

Mary Ann Prelock

Kelly Salloum - N

Miriam Stryzik

Dennis Tesdell

Bonnie Tortorelli

William Vasquez

Carol Wertheim - N

Carolyn West

Catherine Yesayans

PAST PRESIDENTS

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Deborah Dentler

Carole Dougherty

Greg Grammer

Andrea Humberger

John LoCascio

Marie Luft

Steve Preston

Bill Shepherd

David Smith

Arlene Vidor

N - New Member

U - Upgrading Member

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Glendale Arts

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Steve Hunt

Catherine Jurca & Scott Fraser

SAN RAFAEL PATRON

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Corinne Sánchez & Efren Manjarrez

Pam & Keith Sorem

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Joyce Briscoe & Shirley Ann Hill

The Bunt Family

Peggy Dionne

Pam & Jim Elyea (History for Hire)

Art Fisher & William Shepherd

Traute & Gene Gleeson

Russell & Anita Harnden

Nancy Hathaway (The Wine Vault)

Adrine Issavy & David Hildreth

Keith Kneeven

Victoria & Scott Lasken

Christine & Dominic Lazzaretto

Matthew Letcher & Kevin Phan

Jennifer & Blake Levin

Thomas McIntyre

Mary Kay Prather & Thomas Jacobsmeyer

Joanna Pringle

Carolyn Schiers

Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk (Rossmoyne Properties, Inc.)

Scott Smissen & Don Snyder

Francesca & Lee Smith

Mana & John Vulchev

Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann

Elaine & Bill Wilkerson



E V E N T S C A L E N D A R

Thursday, February 28, 7:00-8:30 pm:
SILENT GLENDALE

Thursday, March 7, 7:00-9:00 pm:
A SPECIAL RAISING THE BAR AT MONTROSE BOWL

Sunday, March 10, 10:00 am-12:00 noon:
THE LIFE AND WORKS OF ARCHITECT S. CHARLES LEE
AND TOUR OF THE ALEX THEATRE

Thursday, March 14, 7:00-8:30 pm:
THE HISTORY OF FOREST LAWN

Thursday, March 21, 7:00-9:00 pm:
THE SECRET GARDENS OF FOREST LAWN (LECTURE)

Saturday, March 23, 1:00-3:00 pm:
THE SECRET GARDENS OF FOREST LAWN (TOUR)

Sunday, March 24, 10:00 am:
BACH IN THE SUBWAYS

April: Date and Time TBD:
HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN
GLENDALE

Sunday, April 14, 1:30-3:30 pm:
VICTORIAN EASTER

Saturday, April 27, 4:00-6:00 pm:
TASTE OF SPAIN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Wednesday, May 8, 7:00-9:00 pm:
LANDMARK THIS! WORKSHOP ON
THE GLENDALE REGISTER AND MILLS ACT

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 am-4:00 pm:
RESTORATION EXPO

Saturday, June 1, 12:00-4:00 pm:
ADOBE TO ADOBE WALK/BIKE

Saturday, June 22, 7:00-10:00 pm:
40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA & BENEFIT

Saturday, July 13, 7:30-9:30 pm:
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES:
CELEBRATING FILM, PEOPLE AND HISTORY

Saturday, July 20, 4:00-6:00 pm:
ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER SOCIAL

Sunday, September 29, 10:00 am-4:00 pm:
ICONS OF ARCHITECTURE HOME TOUR

For more details on these exciting events,
please visit glendalehistorical.org/events

