ANNIVERSARY THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE SUMMER 2019

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATORY EVENING AT STANFORD HOUSE



40TH ANNIVERSARY GALABENEFIT

Artwork and Photo: Matthew Letcher

Gala & Benefit, which will be held at Stanford House, a magnificent 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival landmark home, on June 22 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Attendees will enjoy wine and cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live music and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Society's endowment and preservation funds.

TGHS will present its annual awards in recognition of outstanding achievement in historic preservation and volunteer service. The recipients of the 2019 Preservation Awards are **Onnig Bulanikian**, **Director**, **Community Services & Parks**, **City of Glendale**, for his exceptional stewardship of the Doctors House Museum; Friends **of Rockhaven**, a non-profit organization that has worked passionately to promote and preserve Rockhaven Sanitarium, and was successful in nominating the former all-women mental health facility (1923) to the National Register of Historic Places; and the **South Glendale Historic Resources Survey**, which identified hundreds of properties that are eligible for local, state or national designation as well as locally eligible historic districts. The survey was prepared by Historic Resources Group for the City of Glendale as part of the South Glendale Community Plan; many TGHS volunteers provided invaluable input throughout the survey process.

The recipients of this year's Volunteer Awards are **Robin Lee Hansen** for her time and talent in planning special events at the Doctors House Museum throughout the years; **Francesca Smith**, an architectural historian and former Board Member, for providing critical support for TGHS's preservation advocacy efforts and generous assistance

in preparing the notes and scripts for various tours; **Scott Smissen** for his hard work and devotion in organizing memorable and successful Gala & Benefit fundraisers; and **Don Snyder** for his dedication and enthusiasm in coordinating recent tours and events at Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Glendale. Smissen and Snyder have also graciously opened their beautiful house for two TGHS Home Tours and the 2016 Holiday Party.

TGHS is also pleased to bestow the prestigious Zelia Blanton Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to **Sean Bersell**, who served for five years on a voluntary basis as the Society's first-ever Executive Director. He previously served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer for two years. Through untold hours of meticulous research, Bersell has uncovered the stories of numerous Glendale residents and buildings and has played an instrumental role in advancing the cause of historic preservation. He also spearheaded the effort to prepare and submit the Casa Verdugo Historic District application, which is currently working its way through the City's approval process.

Sponsors of the 40th Anniversary Gala & Benefit include **The Walt Disney Company, G&C Properties** and **Hollywood Production Center.** Tickets are \$140 for TGHS Members and \$175 for the general public. Tickets may be purchased online at GlendaleHistorical.org or by sending a check to The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202.

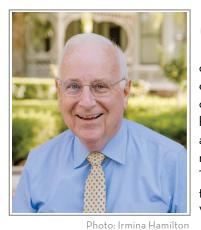
Landmark This! Draws Enthusiastic Crowd to Brand Library

On May 8, over 50 people attended TGHS's Landmark This! workshop. Presenters Lorna Vartanian and Chris Cragnotti, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, respectively, discussed the criteria for listing a property on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and provided information on how to apply for it and the Mills Act.

The Mills Act property tax reduction is available to owners of Glendale Register properties and contributors to historic districts. The value of the Mills Act has increased due to recent changes to federal tax law.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A, during which audience members appeared quite enthusiastic at the prospect of designating their historic properties. Our thanks to Vartanian, Cragnotti, and the City of Glendale Library, Arts & Culture and the Brand Library for this stimulating evening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ur thanks to more than one hundred volunteers, committee members and event chairpersons who contributed thousands of hours to planning, promoting and participating in twelve recent TGHS activities. These included lectures, tours and three major events: Victorian Easter at the Doctors House; our Taste of

Spain soiree in connection with TGHS's annual membership drive; and the enormously popular Restoration Expo.

"The Board will continue to update our members about our preservation efforts... with calls to action when we need support from our membership for important decisions about the future of Glendale."

Thanks as well to the Board of Directors, who constantly maintain our vision of a Glendale that celebrates and preserves its history and architectural heritage to enhance the community today and for future generations. The Board will continue to update our members about all our preservation efforts. We will continue with calls to action when TGHS needs support from our membership for important decisions about the future of Glendale. The Society is currently following the progress of a proposed change to the Historic Preservation Ordinance which, if approved in its original form, would streamline and greatly improve our efforts and those of our community at large to preserve historic structures.

TGHS is also upgrading its ability to store, access and share information. Through use of improved software and cloudbased storage, the Society's ability to serve our membership will be greatly enhanced.

Looking forward, we have a number of exciting events scheduled for the next three months. Included are our Annual Gala & Benefit on June 22; a special, one-time-only celebration called "Thanks for the Memories" at the Alex Theatre on July 13; and our 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Summer Social at the Doctors House on July 20. Be sure to save the dates so that you won't miss these wonderful gatherings.

If you haven't already signed up to volunteer at one or more of these events, it's not too late. One volunteer recently said, "Taste of Spain was a roaring success, and it felt so good to be a part of making it all happen." A roaring success it was indeed; the results of the drive were so positive that TGHS now has over 800 members!

Regards,

Steve Hunt

Downtown Specific Plan and Historic Preservation

In March, Glendale's City Council adopted revisions to the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP), including improved design standards and increased open space requirements for all new projects.

The original DSP created a framework for new development, but much of the construction has been criticized for bulky, unattractive designs, especially on Central Avenue. Remember the mid-century brick medical office buildings that formerly stood there? A City-adopted historic resources survey found them eligible as a historic district. Perfect candidates for adaptive reuse as housing, those brick buildings represent a remarkable missed opportunity.

The revised DSP retains an incentive for historic preservation. Unfortunately, it is the wrong one. Developers who agree to preserve historic buildings and list them on the Glendale Register are allowed to build to the maximum height and density *on the same lot.* As an alternative,TGHS urged Council to implement a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), as Los Angeles, Burbank, Pasadena and other cities have done. TDR allows developers to sell the right to build higher and more densely to owners of nearby properties instead, in order to minimize impacts on historic resources.

TGHS asked Council to direct staff to return with a proposal to implement TDR. Council declined to do so. The Society will continue to encourage the City to move in this direction. In the meantime, let's hope no one steps forward with a plan to wrap a 95' building around the Great White Hut.



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How Will Senate Bill 50 Affect Historic Resources?

n April 24, California Senate Bill 50 passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee. Designed to respond to the state's housing crisis, the bill does not include adequate protections for historic resources, and TGHS joins with preservation organizations across the state to request that it be amended.

SB 50 is very complicated and even self-contradictory, as it undergoes frequent revision. As currently proposed, in counties with more than 600,000 residents, the bill would allow developers to build four- or fivestory multi-family buildings in single-family neighborhoods if a property is within one-half mile of a rail line. If it is within one-quarter mile of a bus stop with service every ten minutes or less, or located in a high-opportunity, jobs-rich area, which includes most of Glendale north of the 134 freeway (see http://mappingopportunityca.org/), multi-family projects could be built but would otherwise follow existing zoning as to height, floor area ratio, etc. There are temporary exceptions for gentrifying neighborhoods and for properties that have recently been rentals. Under SB 50, singlefamily houses anywhere in the state could also be converted into fourplexes by right. All projects would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and design review.

The status of historic resources is ambiguous. Local historic resources appear to be protected from demolition and redevelopment. However, only contributors to local historic districts, established by an ordinance adopted before 2010, would be exempt, thus nullifying the entire district concept. At times the bill refers only to historic districts listed in the state or national registers, of which Glendale has zero.

TGHS believes that all properties within an existing or pending historic district, as well as all individual properties and historic districts found locally eligible for designation through a City-adopted survey, should likewise be exempt as historic resources, as they are so considered under CEQA.

SB 50 is likely to undergo further revision, and TGHS asks that you contact State Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair of Senate Appropriations, and Assemblywoman Laura Friedman as well as State Senator Scott Wiener, the bill's author, to ask that they ensure that SB 50 include adequate protections for all of our historic resources.

Update: Just before this issue went to press, TGHS learned that Senator Portantino has blocked SB 50 until January 2020 at the earliest. The Society will keep members updated on the progress of this critical legislation.

EVENTS



Jessica Hodgdon and Stephanie Reinke rocking their fab fifties dresses

A Special Raising the Bar at Montrose Bowl

he sound of bowling balls hitting vintage lanes punctuated lively conversations at TGHS's March 7 Raising the Bar, held at the charmingly retro Montrose Bowl. Over 75 members and their guests enjoyed the 1950s atmosphere, which the 1936 building acquired when the movie $Ple\alpha santville$ was shot there in 1998. After production wrapped, the Berger family, who have owned and operated the alley since 1981, asked the crew to leave the set just as it was.



From left: Bruce and Valerie Merritt, Kendyl Young of DIGGS-Glendale, Jessica Hodgdon from LA Conservancy

TGHS is grateful to Kendyl Young and DIGGS-Glendale for their generous sponsorship of this delightfully different Raising the Bar.

The Show Starts on the Sidewalk

istorian Eric Lynxwiler gave an outstanding lecture at the iconic Alex Theatre (1925) to several dozen rapt listeners on March 10. His subject was S. Charles Lee, the legendary theater architect who created such masterpieces as the Tower Theatre (1927) and the Los Angeles Theatre (1931), both on Broadway in Downtown LA. Lee's brilliant career dovetailed neatly with Hollywood's heyday; he designed over 400 theaters, some 250 in the LA area alone.



The guests enjoyed learning about Lee's Art Deco/"Greco Deco"/ Streamline Moderne designs and how his approach exemplified his famous maxim, "The show starts on the

Historian Eric Lynxwiler at the Alex Theatre

sidewalk." Lee's transformation of the Alex's façade in 1940, with its eye-catching marquee and neon spire, stands as a prime example of this philosophy.

Following Lynxwiler's talk, the audience joined Glendale Arts' Nina Crowe and Doctors House Director Laura Crook for a special architectural and backstage tour of the Alex, taking home with them a deeper understanding and appreciation of Glendale's last remaining Golden Age movie palace.



Happy Birthday to Bach from Barbara Don and Cantabile at Glendale's historic train station



Docent Anita Rinaldi-Harnden pointing out Churrigueresque detail on the station's entry

Bach in the Subways, Docents at the Ready

n March 24, as part of the worldwide celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach's 334th birthday, violinist Barbara Don brought her string ensemble Cantabile to Glendale's historic Southern Pacific Railroad Depot for an inspiring, ambitious all-Bach program. The overflow audience responded warmly to the Orchestral Suite #3. the third Brandenburg Concerto, excerpts from the monumental Art of Fugue and other masterpieces. Don describes the gifted and hardworking amateur group as "a real family" and has led them in this annual tribute for the past four years, three of them in Glendale.

After the concert, TGHS docents Marty Bracciotti, Don Snyder, Renee Leask, Scott Smissen, Anita Rinaldi-Harnden, Peter Rusch and Steve Hunt took their places around the 1923 Spanish Colonial Revival train station to point out architectural details and relate its fascinating history to the departing concertgoers.

EVENTS



Suzanne McDonnell, Paul Lombardi and Jamie Nichols—three generations of homeowners!



Taste of Spain Celebrates Successful TGHS Membership Drive

ver 100 partygoers, including more than 40 new TGHS members and 30 Patron members, gathered at a stunning 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival home in Northwest Glendale on April 27 to socialize over Spanish wine, beer and tapas.

Nostalgia was also on the menu. Among the guests were new members Jamie Howe Nichols, whose family lived in the house during its earliest decades; and Suzanne McDonnell, whose father bought the home from the Howe family in 1964, in turn selling it in 2002 to the current owner, Paul Lombardi. Both women were thrilled to revisit a home that had meant so much to them.

Guests entered through the front door, which was set in a deep, dramatically scaled arched embrasure. Docents Joemy Wilson and Jackie Davis pointed out interior details, such as the tiled entrance hall and staircase and the stencilled wood trusses and turned king posts of the living room, before directing the guests to the main party area—the lushly landscaped back yard, where the home's full three-story height revealed itself.

Many thanks to the host, the volunteers (especially Cathy Grayson and Anne McDonald for their leadership) and Gold Sponsor Disney for sponsoring this and all of the Society's Anniversary events.



Houry and Vigen Ghazarian enjoying the Secret Gardens tour

TGHS Unlocks the Secret Gardens of Forest Lawn

n March, TGHS held three events in association with Forest Lawn. John Llewellyn, Chairman of Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks & Mortuaries, led off with a fascinating talk about the early history of the

park. Next, Gardening Supervisor Rich Leach spoke about its design and maintenance. As a grand finale, fortunate TGHS tourgoers were admitted to a series of walled gardens not open to the public and hidden behind locked bronze doors. Following a reception, participants visited the Forest Lawn Museum for a special photographic exhibit, *Women of Vision*.

Many thanks to Don Snyder, whose stellar organizational skills were the key to unlocking the Secret Gardens of Forest Lawn.

4th Annual Restoration Expo Features Home Tour, Celebrity Speakers



Restored Host Brett Waterman, Event Chair Robert Gordon, Architectural Historian Barbara Lamprecht and Sponsor Daniel Curet-Rodriguez (deasy penner podley) enjoying the Expo

n May 11 at Glendale's Civic Auditorium, nearly 500 attendees visited over 50 exhibitor booths, eagerly pulling out smartphones and tablets to show photos of their home restoration needs to contractors, design professionals and suppliers of tile, lighting, hardware and other valuable resources. The day-long schedule of speakers, including Brett Waterman, host of the HGTV and DIY Network show Restored, inspired lively Q&A sessions. A docent-led tour of a 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival home restored by Period Piece was an event highlight; over 150 people visited the home in two hours, marvelling at how a historic structure can be modified for today's living without compromising its design integrity.

Many thanks to Mahogany Sponsors Disney, HartmanBaldwin Design/ Build, deasy penner podley and Dunn-Edwards Paints; also Oak Sponsors Silverlake Conservation, Sun FireDefense and Period Piece. Thanks and kudos as well to Event Chair and Board Member Robert Gordon, the speakers, exhibitors and the dozens of TGHS volunteers that made the 4th Annual Restoration Expo such a success.

Glendale City Council Adopts Demolition Deterrence Provisions to Historic Preservation Ordinance

ollowing the illegal demolition of the Craftsman at 1420 Valley View Road last year, Council directed staff to increase penalties for illegal demolition of historic resources. These include a three-year moratorium on construction and a requirement that new buildings maintain the height, footprint and square footage of the old building. For partial demolitions, in-kind replacement of removed features is mandated.

At the same time, staff took the opportunity to provide other much-needed updates and clarifications to the Ordinance. These include: a larger role for the Historic Preservation Commission in making recommendations and decisions about properties involving historic resources that are not formally designated; improved protections for existing and pending historic districts; and much greater clarity on the approval process for property owners.

The revised Ordinance (Version 1) went to Council for a first reading on March 26, but further consideration was delayed. TGHS representatives and Chris Cragnotti, a Historic

Preservation Commissioner, met with Mayor Ara Najarian and with Councilmember Vartan Gharpetian, who both indicated they needed more time to study Version 1.

On May 14, City Council voted to adopt the demolition deterrence changes to the Ordinance (Version 2). TGHS applauds this wise and welcome decision as an excellent start.

Mayor Najarian has promised that Council will consider all of the recommended revisions to the Ordinance at a later date, but it is not clear when this will return to the agenda. TGHS encourages the Council to move forward quickly to clarify the rules for property owners and to tackle the frustrating problem of unpermitted work on properties within existing or pending historic districts.

Thanks to all TGHS members who attended the May 14 City Council meeting and who wrote letters in support of the changes to the Ordinance. The Society—and individual members—must keep the pressure on Council to ensure passage of Version 1 of the historic preservation ordinance that Glendale and its historic properties deserve.

DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM

An Easter Egg-Stravaganza at the Doctors House

ith over 400 guests searching for thousands of eggs, this was the biggest and best Victorian Easter yet! Bunny and her friends handchurned ice cream with Valerie Campbell, played classic games and collected those eggs for prizes. During Doctors House tours, guests delighted in the intricate details of mid-century egg dioramas donated by the family of Glendale resident Harriet Wilkerson.

Victorian Easter this year was a bittersweet celebration, being the last appearance of TGHS's beloved Easter Bunny, Mireya Romo-Bowen. Deepest appreciation and warmest wishes go with the entire Romo-Bowen family as they depart Glendale and hop away to their new life in Houston, Texas.



Bunny unmasked: House Curator Peter Rusch with retiring bunny Mireya Romo-Bowen and her husband, Robert Bowen

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: FEBRUARY - APRIL 2019

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PO Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202-0173 www.glendalehistorical.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 12:00-4:00 pm: ADOBE TO ADOBE WALK/BIKE

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 6:00-10:00 pm: 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA & BENEFIT

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 7:30-9:30 pm, ALEX THEATRE: THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES: CELEBRATING FILM, PEOPLE AND HISTORY. Tickets \$30, on sale in June.

The Alex Film Society and TGHS in association with Glendale Arts present a special event fundraiser, hosted by Adam Felber of NPR's *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* Comedy shorts, vintage newsreels, "stars at home," classic cartoons and much more. Arrive early for no-host bar, photo displays and live music. Celebrate the Jewel City's unique connection to Hollywood and nearly a century of classic films screened at the Alex. Not to be missed!

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 4:00-6:00 pm: ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 6:00-8:00 pm: A GOOD TIME AT THE GOODE HOUSE (TGHS PATRON MEMBERS ONLY)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 7:00-10:00 pm: NEON CRUISE (TGHS MEMBERS ONLY)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 4:00-6:00 pm: WINE TASTING AT HISTORIC LE MESNAGER STONE BARN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 7:00-8:30 pm: MASTER ARCHITECTS IN GLENDALE PRESENTATION BY ALAN HESS

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



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