



## TGHS FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST CITY

In June, TGHS filed suit over the approval of a 12-unit residential project at 534 N. Kenwood St., on the site of a historic Aeroplane Craftsman built in 1913.

TGHS alleges that in approving the project despite expert, fact-based opinion that it would adversely impact the historic resource, Glendale violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If TGHS prevails, the project approval would be set aside, and the City would have to prepare an Environmental Impact Report to identify feasible mitigation measures and analyze alternatives before it could reconsider approval.

TGHS has hired Susan Brandt-Hawley, a renowned CEQA attorney who represents public interest groups that seek to preserve historic and aesthetic resources and cultural

landscapes and enforce the laws protecting them.

On June 30, TGHS hosted a webinar to discuss the lawsuit. Former Vice President of Preservation Advocacy Catherine Jurca discussed the recent history of TGHS's preservation efforts, from getting the City to acknowledge individual properties as historic to, as in this case, urging decision makers to reject projects that threaten recognized historic resources. Former Board member Francesca Smith addressed specific problems with the Kenwood project, which include proposing to demolish the original garage and altering the setting with new development that is too tall and too close to the historic Craftsman.

Ms. Brandt-Hawley educated members about the litigation process. CEQA is enforced by

citizens and public interest groups, not the State. There is no trial; a judge reviews legal briefs and hears attorneys' arguments based on the administrative record, which includes hearing transcripts and public comments. If the judge decides the City violated CEQA, the City and project sponsor are responsible for TGHS's legal costs and attorney fees. TGHS is not responsible for the City's or project sponsor's attorney fees regardless of outcome. Most CEQA cases are resolved within a year.

TGHS's case is shored up both by expert opinion about the proposed project's adverse impacts on the historic resource and by numerous public comments, which spoke to the aesthetic impacts of the project. Thank you again to everyone who submitted comments; they are hugely important!



## Rockhaven's Future: Uncertain No More

On June 29, Senator Anthony Portantino (D - La Cañada Flintridge) announced the approval of his \$8 million budget request to renovate and preserve the Rockhaven Sanitarium site as the Rockhaven Mental Health History Museum. Rockhaven is listed in the National Register but has been deteriorating since 2008. TGHS is thrilled and thanks the Senator for his vision and efforts on Rockhaven's behalf.

Shortly before this announcement, TGHS's Digital Events Committee presented "Rockhaven: Gracious Past and Uncertain Future," featuring an outstanding documentary on Rockhaven by John Newcombe, introduced by Joanna Linkchorst, the film's narrator and President of the Friends of Rockhaven. Almost 100 attendees learned about mental health pioneer Agnes Richards, who founded the sanitarium in 1923 as a facility owned and operated by women, for women. Linkchorst shared poignant stories of notable residents such as Billie Burke (Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*) and Marilyn Monroe's mother, Gladys Baker Eley. Concerned queries about Rockhaven's unsettled future dominated the lively Q&A session that followed. Thanks to Senator Portantino, that future is uncertain no more. And congratulations to the Friends of Rockhaven, which in 2019 received a Preservation Award from TGHS for their tireless work to preserve and care for the City-owned landmark.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

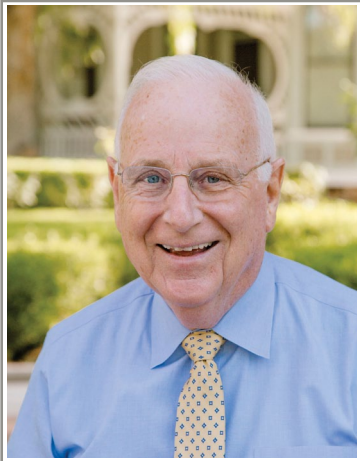


PHOTO: Irmina Hamilton

**A**lthough the pandemic must remain a factor in planning for TGHS events, we are hopeful that the Doctors House Museum will open for tours sometime this fall, with appropriate protocols. This will represent a great start to our 2021-2022 fiscal year and our first step back to normal. Please stay tuned as we announce more in-person events as

soon as conditions allow: Candlelight Tours of the Doctors House, lectures, the Gala & Benefit, Taste of Spain, the Restoration Expo, Victorian Easter, Raising the Bar and, of course, the Home Tour. In the meantime, I invite you to visit [glendalehistorical.org](http://glendalehistorical.org) to enjoy any of the digital events that you may have missed and to check on our traditional, in-person offerings as we announce them.

Our 2020-2021 fiscal year was, surprisingly, a good year. We surpassed the goal of 1,000 members set by then-President Greg Grammer four years ago: we are now 1,003 strong! Our preservation efforts are as robust as ever, perhaps even more so. Digital events kept us connected and we increased our outreach to students, young families, ethnic groups and minorities.

In this newsletter, you will read about some talented, dedicated members to whom we gave particular recognition this year. Congratulations to Russell Harnden III, Hilary Sbei, Arlene Vidor and Joemy Wilson on their

Volunteer Awards, and a special salute to Marcia Hanford for her well-deserved Zelia Blanton Award. I am constantly amazed at the depth of talent and commitment in our membership.

You will also meet our new Board members. My thanks to Kathryn Brunet, Renée Leask, David Meunier, Ani Mnatsakanyan, Hilary Sbei, John Schwab-Sims and Katherine Peters Yamada for their willingness to serve on one of the hardest-working Boards of Directors in town.

***“Our 2020-2021 fiscal year was, surprisingly, a good year. We surpassed the goal of 1,000 members set by then-President Greg Grammer four years ago: we are now 1,003 strong!”***

Preservation remains the focus of our attention. Chief among our efforts is the litigation with the City described in this newsletter's lead article. Other issues include proposed development projects around or near designated historic properties, new laws that will affect local residences, additions to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources, final approval of pending historic districts, revisions to the Historic District Ordinance and more. Thank you for being a part of TGHS's ongoing work.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Hunt".

## Remembering Connie Humberger

**T**GHS mourns the passing of Connie Humberger, 91, on May 25, 2021, at her Glendale home. She is survived by her daughter, Andrea Humberger, a Past President of TGHS.

Born Concha Dolores del Tiempo in Los Angeles, Connie married and moved to Glendale in 1951. She taught in the Glendale Unified School District and worked for the LA Conservancy for more than two decades.

Connie was a warm and positive person, passionate about life; her many interests included art, architecture, travel and the theater. These interests often converged, as she gave generously of her time to both TGHS and the Alex Theatre. She was an enthusiastic TGHS docent, was deeply involved in our efforts to preserve the Alex and served on the board of the Alex Film Society. We shall all miss her.



THE  
**GLENDALE**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PRESIDENT**  
Steve Hunt

**VICE PRESIDENT, PRESERVATION ADVOCACY**  
John Schwab-Sims

**VICE PRESIDENT, OUTREACH**  
Jon Crook

**VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP**  
Hilary Sbei

**SECRETARY**  
Darren Merritt

**TREASURER**  
Kathryn Engel

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Kathryn Brunet  
Cathy Grayson  
Renée Leask  
David Meunier  
Ani Mnatsakanyan  
Mary Kay Prather  
Katherine Peters Yamada

**DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR**  
Laura Crook

**DOCTORS HOUSE CURATOR**  
Peter Rusch

**NEWSLETTER LAYOUT, GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Matthew Letcher

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Scott Lasken

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS**

*Past Executive Director*  
Sean Bersell

*Past Presidents*  
Zelia Blanton\*  
Deborah Dentler  
Carole Dougherty  
Greg Grammer  
Andrea Humberger  
John LoCascio  
Marie Luft

*Robert Newcomb\**  
Steve Preston  
Bill Shepherd  
David Smith  
Arlene Vidor

*\*Deceased*

## Adaptive Reuse of Harrower Lab Moves Forward



In May, the Historic Preservation Commission approved plans for the rehabilitation of the City-owned Harrower Laboratory and Clinic property at 920 E. Broadway as affordable housing for seniors. The project includes construction

of a fourth building at the rear, and the property, already on the Glendale Register, will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Staff had recommended approval of the project as proposed, but the HPC added several conditions, including the replacement of non-original storefronts with doors more closely matching the original. For the new building, the HPC rejected the use of vinyl windows and selected a warmer color for the exterior brick veneer than the stark white originally proposed.

TGHS looks forward to a new life for this historic property, which served as Harrower's offices, manufactory and clinic until 1948. The three Beaux Arts buildings were constructed between 1921 and 1924 by prominent local architect Alfred Priest.

## Six-Story Building Proposed for Cole Property

Members will remember TGHS's efforts to have City staff and Council recognize the historical significance of two properties at 128 and 132 S. Kenwood, following a proposal to demolish them and redevelop the site. In 2017, Council acknowledged that the Clifford Cole property, which included a 1920 Craftsman bungalow and a multi-family building from 1953, was historic for its association with the prominent local religious leader and syndicated *Glendale News-Press* columnist. Council refused to certify the EIR and rejected the project.

The project is back, one story taller. The applicant proposes to maintain the Craftsman at 132 N. Kenwood but demolish everything else and add 41 units. TGHS has not seen the plans; however, it is difficult to imagine that proposed new construction of this size will respect the historic character and integrity of the property.

Recognition of the Cole property was achieved thanks to committed members who wrote and spoke at the City Council meeting. It is virtually certain that TGHS will need your help again when this project returns to Council.

# ANNUAL MEETING

## Virtual Annual Meeting – with Brunch!

On July 17, via Zoom, President Steve Hunt welcomed members to TGHS's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. Following a tribute to the Digital Events and Membership/Outreach Inclusion Committees, Hunt recognized Patron Members and reported that TGHS is fiscally sound. Vice President of Preservation Advocacy Andy Allison then spoke about TGHS's many preservation activities.



TGHS's Leadership Team for 2021-22. Front row, from L: Peter Rusch, Laura Crook, John Schwab-Sims, Hilary Sbei, David Meunier, Steve Hunt. Back row: Kathryn Brunet, Renée Leask, Kathryn Engel, Katherine Yamada, Mary Kay Prather, Cathy Grayson, Jon Crook. Not pictured: Ani Mnatsakanyan, Darren Merritt.

Hunt thanked the outgoing Board members for their service: Allison, Derek Catao, Kathleen Clark, Robert Gordon, Beth Marlis, Anita Rinaldi-Harnden and Zara Rostomian. Cathy Grayson then presented candidates for the 2021-22 Board of Directors, who were duly elected. Hunt announced this year's awards; Doctors House Curator Peter Rusch gave a lively update on restoration activities, followed by a trailer for Russell Harnden's upcoming documentary on the Museum and Harden's entertaining video capture of Photo Day on the grounds. Hilary Sbei then guided members to breakout rooms to socialize "as if seated at a large table on the lawn of the Doctors House." With luck, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will return to that traditional spot.

Attendees who signed up for delivery of their meeting materials received a surprise in their kits: an article by Clark, "Victorian in Vogue"; pages of Victorian buildings to color; and a delicious brunch – mimosa fixings included! Kudos and deepest appreciation to meeting organizers extraordinaire Kathryn Engel and Marcia Hanford, who even delivered the goodies themselves, with help from Sam Engel, Nancy Oshima and Patty Silversher.

## Marcia Hanford Receives Zelia Blanton Award

The Zelia Blanton Award, established in 1986 in memory of TGHS pioneer and Past President Zelia Blanton Woodring, is awarded on occasion to recognize a member who has given above and beyond in service of preservation and promoting community awareness and involvement. **Marcia Hanford's** outstanding contributions to TGHS and to Glendale make her more than deserving of this special recognition.

Hanford was elected to TGHS's Board of Directors in 2007 and served tirelessly for 13 years. As Events Coordinator, she organized countless lectures, walking tours and

events, including the annual signature Home Tour. Since stepping down last year, she continues to actively support TGHS with her deep historic knowledge of the organization.

Reflecting her lifelong commitment to education and preservation, Hanford has served on the boards of the LA Conservancy, the Alex and Glendale Arts. She worked at Disney for 17 years, primarily in marketing, and currently teaches at Glendale Community College. TGHS congratulates Hanford and remains deeply grateful for her ongoing presence and dedication.



Marcia Hanford  
PHOTO: Minerva Astengo

# 2021 VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Russell Harden III  
PHOTO: Brad Buckman Photography

Bitten by the filmmaking bug when he first picked up his grandmother's Super-8 camera, **Russell Harden III** went on to fulfill his Hollywood dreams as an award-winning motion-picture editor for major studios and advertising agencies. A committed preservationist, he maintains an ever-growing collection of some 2,000 16mm films, helping to safeguard cinema history by restoring the many educational and industrial films in his collection.

Harnden and his wife, Anita Rinaldi-Harnden, hosted the 2017 Taste of Spain with an outdoor 16mm film screening of *Mildred Pierce*. Among many other contributions, Harnden produced and edited "Our Favorite Features" and the "Brand Fly-In Centennial Raising the Bar." He is currently working on documentaries on the Doctors House and the Fly-In.

With an extensive background in the art and nonprofit worlds, **Hilary Sbei** brings multiple talents and interests to TGHS. She has danced with an Afro-Jazz-Modern company and worked in dance apparel sales, helping novice dancers to find confidence through comfort. Most recently, she worked for several years at Glendale Arts, assisting with development, fundraising, marketing and volunteer coordination.

For TGHS, Sbei has managed membership records, conducted outreach, served as lead docent for Doctors House tours and volunteered for many events. Chair of the Digital Events Committee, Sbei is also Co-Chair of the Membership Outreach/Inclusion Committee (MOIC). TGHS welcomes her to the Board of Directors this year.



Hilary Sbei  
PHOTO: Laura Crook



Arlene Vidor  
PHOTO: Corrie Siegel

President of TGHS from 2002 to 2008, **Arlene Vidor** previously received the Society's Zelia Blanton Award for outstanding work in preservation. Subsequently, she served on Glendale's Historic Preservation Commission, successfully nominating four City-owned properties to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. In 2017, she received TGHS's Carole Dougherty Lifetime Achievement Award.

Currently on the TGHS Advisory Council, Vidor continues to make significant contributions, including three virtual presentations this year: "Treasures of Adams Hill," "Early Glendale" and "Stories of Black Residents in Glendale: Past and Present." She is most proud of the last event, given during Black History Month, as she believes it is important for TGHS as a historical organization to acknowledge Glendale's racist past.

After a 12-year career as an international tour director, leading groups on fancy vacations all over the world, **Joemy Wilson** decided in retirement to focus on Glendale. She joined TGHS in 2013 and immediately signed up as a docent at the Doctors House, where she curated a 2016 exhibit on pioneering Glendale entrepreneur and feminist Fanny Briggs Carr. She served as House Captain for several Home Tours and Taste of Spain events.

Author of "Coming Up on Your Left: A Tour Guide's Guidebook," Wilson has lent her literary talents to TGHS by editing the second edition of Marie Luft's "Memories of Glendale's Doctors House" and writing docent scripts for Home Tours. She is privileged to be the editor of this newsletter.



Joemy Wilson  
PHOTO: Jon Harvey

# MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTORS!

At the July 17 Annual Meeting, seven outstanding candidates for TGHS's Board of Directors were elected to serve alongside current Board members Jon Crook, Kathryn Engel, Cathy Grayson, Steve Hunt, Darren Merritt and Mary Kay Prather.

Although the new Directors bring extraordinarily varied skills and backgrounds to the tasks ahead, they have at least one characteristic in common: each of them has already shown a dedication to historic preservation in Glendale and elsewhere. TGHS welcomes these energetic and committed individuals to the Board of Directors.



A graduate of the Master of Heritage Conservation program at USC's School of Architecture, **ANI MNATSAKANYAN** was the Curator of Education and Engagement at MONA and is currently an intern at Historic Resources Group in Pasadena.

A member of TGHS and a Doctors House docent since 2015, **KATHRYN BRUNET** is a rare books librarian, specializing in medieval manuscripts and Western paleography. She has a passion for education, architecture and historical fashion.



Shortly after joining TGHS, **HILARY SBEI** became a Doctors House docent, quickly transitioning to lead docent for tours and events. Her work with nonprofits includes administration and production with the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival and varied duties at Glendale Arts.



In 1997, **RENÉE LEASK** moved into a 1923 house in southeast Glendale and soon joined TGHS, serving as a docent at multiple Home Tours. She has worked for The Walt Disney Company since 2006, administering intellectual party licenses for the Parks.



Soon after buying a 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival home in the Rossmoyne neighborhood, **JOHN SCHWAB-SIMS** joined TGHS. He spearheaded the initial application process for the Bellehurst Park Historic District, where he now lives. He is a Senior Director at a major insurance company in LA.

Actor **DAVID MEUNIER** moved to Glendale in 2014, joined TGHS and is active on the Preservation Advocacy Committee. When not on set, he continues to restore the smallest of details on his home, which is on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.



**KATHERINE PETERS YAMADA** joined TGHS soon after moving into a 1940 American Colonial Revival in the pending South Cumberland Heights Historic District. From 2001 to 2020, she wrote the column Verdugo Views for the *Glendale News-Press*, and is currently working on a family history.



# WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS MAY - JULY 2021

**SAN RAFAEL PATRON**  
Rima & Donnell Cameron

**GRAND CENTRAL PATRON**  
Arlene Vidor - U

**JEWEL CITY PATRON**  
Faline England &  
David Meunier  
Corinne Sánchez &  
Efren Manjarrez

**VERDUGO PATRON**  
Cathy & Jon Grayson  
Scott Halloran &  
Peter Rusch  
Anita & Russell Harnden  
Edna Karinski (Community  
Foundation of the Verdugos)  
Jessica & Christian Lander  
Chris & Steve Warheit

**TROPICO**  
Nancy & Michael Bain  
Brenda Berg &  
Armando Gonzalez  
Dorothy Black  
Armida Bolton - U  
Frances & Jose Chavez  
Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen

Reid Dammann - N  
Houry & Vigen Ghazarian  
Matthew Letcher &  
Kevin Phan  
Patricia Messina  
Kelly Tyler &  
Kenneth Simon - U  
Thelma &  
Manuel Valenzuela III - U

**HOUSEHOLD**  
Judy & Dan Cabrera  
Valerie & Colin Campbell  
Kathleen Clark & Beth Marlis  
Karan Davies  
Nadia & Robert DeWees  
Zuzka & Peter Eggena  
Domenico Ingenito &  
Victor Mazzone  
Karen Leal & David Eldan  
Bruce Matsen & Ronald Wing  
Mickey & Michael Murphy  
Diana Cholakian Pearre - N  
Jane Sheldon & Josh Grayson  
The Sperling Family - N  
Joyce & Richard Tanzer  
Sean Waugaman  
Julie & Stephen Webber  
Sharon & William Weisman  
Susan Wolfson

**INDIVIDUAL**  
Ute Baum  
Kasey Conley - N  
Kelsey Davidson  
Mary Haberle  
Joanna Linkchorst - N  
Gary Perlberg - N  
Adryan Russ  
Raymond Shinn  
Naira Soghbatyan  
Roberta Stone  
Vick Touzjian - N

**NONPROFIT**  
Joanna Linkchorst,  
Friends of Rockhaven - N

**SENIOR**  
Jennifer Allcroft  
Davidia Barba  
Joe Barba  
George Budd  
Gerda D'Nino  
Eva Fonnet  
Brian Frobisher  
Gwen Hampton  
Kay Hostetler  
Bernadette Hovland  
Larry Hovland  
Christina Johnson

Harriett Kahan  
Roseanne Kalaba  
Jarita Kirkwood  
Laura Lovick  
Richard Lovick  
Nadra McClain  
Anne McDonald  
Nancy Oshima  
Paula Sigman-Lowery  
Jo Anne Sitjar  
Bonnie Strand  
Warren Thomas  
Carolyn West  
Amy Yazzetta  
Lisa Yesko  
Sarah Yesko

**STUDENT**  
Chloe Cuffel - N  
Celestine Davidson - N  
Ivar Johnson - N

*TGHS also welcomes 146  
special new members  
through the Glendale  
Federal Credit Union!*

**N - New Member**  
**U - Upgrading Member**

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

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Janna & Craig Gosselin  
Greg Grammer & Simon Wright  
Valerie & Bruce Merritt

### GRAND CENTRAL PATRON

Mary & Karl Loureiro  
Mary Kay Prather & Thomas Jacobsmeyer  
Arlene Vidor

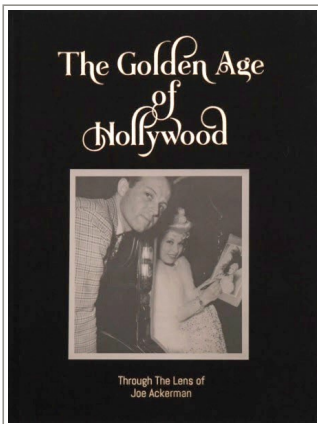
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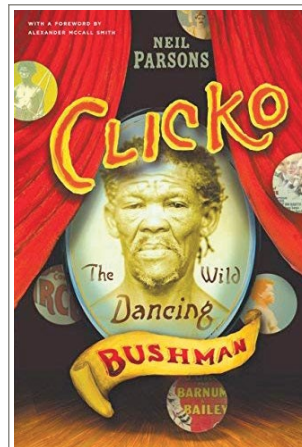
Alan Adams  
Howard Anderson  
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Joyce Briscoe & Shirley Ann Hill  
The Bunt Family  
Carolyn & John Clauss  
Peggy Dionne  
Pam & Jim Elyea (History for Hire)  
Toni & Vince Espinoza  
Art Fisher & William Shepherd  
Cathy & Jon Grayson  
Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch  
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Joanna Pringle  
Devonna & Aaron Reichert  
Gloria & Jerome Sander  
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk  
Scott Smissen & Don Snyder  
Francesca & Lee Smith  
Chris & Steve Warheit  
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann  
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson  
Kendyl Young

## VIRTUAL EVENTS: TWO AUTHORS ADDRESS TGHS



On May 13, Julie (Ackerman) Anderson presented her book about her father, “The Golden Age of Hollywood Through the Lens of Joe Ackerman.” The Oklahoma native moved to Glendale during WWII and ran three successful businesses, but taking celebrity photos

and collecting autographs was his passion. His huge collection, amassed over several decades, now resides at the Hollywood Museum. In 1990, as a benefit for the Alex Theatre, TGHS and then-President Andrea Humberger organized exhibits of Ackerman’s photos at the Doctors House and at the Alex.



In a boffo matinee presentation direct from London on May 29, historian Neil Parsons, author of “Clicko: The Wild Dancing Bushman,” shared the astonishing story of Franz Taibosh, whose improbable life took him from the South African bush to international prominence as a circus performer and eventually to Glendale. His home here,

during the notorious sundown era, was the earliest known extant residence of an African American who did not work where he or she lived. Architectural historian Francesca Smith then chronicled TGHS’s unsuccessful 2018 campaign to save “Clicko House” from demolition.

If you missed any of TGHS’s great events, you can access the archived videos at [glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events](http://glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events)



To get the most up-to-date information on TGHS’s events and preservation alerts, check out [facebook.com/GlendaleHistoricalSociety](https://facebook.com/GlendaleHistoricalSociety) AND [instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety](https://instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety)