



The Glendale Historical Society

VOL. 10, NO. 3, 1989

CITY BUYS VERDUGO ADOBE

The City of Glendale has purchased the landmark Verdugo Adobe, the home of Catalina Verdugo, daughter of Corporal Jose Maria Verdugo. Verdugo, of course, was the Mexican soldier who held the Spanish land grant encompassing all the area which is now Glendale and portions of Flintridge, Highland Park, Atwater Village and Eagle Rock. The Verdugo Adobe, and the "Oak of Peace" situated on its grounds, is an outstanding historic property in Glendale and is listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Historical Landmark registry. Together with the Casa Adobe de San Rafael on Dorothy Drive, the Verdugo Adobe provides a direct link with our Hispanic origin.

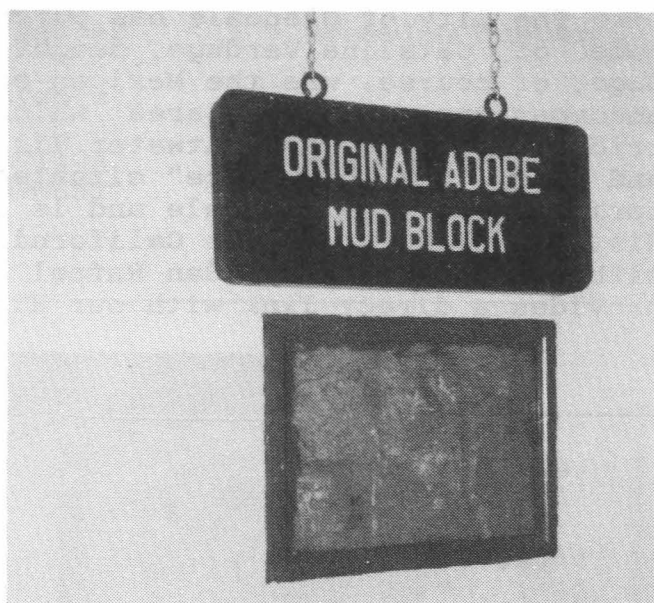


The Verdugo Adobe (Adobe photos by S. McKay)

The recent history of the Adobe is a fine example of historic preservation achieved through an individual owner's appreciation of the importance of a building and of his family's sensitive, generous stewardship of their treasure. Dr. Earnest and Mrs. Jane Bashor purchased the property (which actually included 11 lots) in 1946. At that time, it was mostly bare dirt ground. The Adobe, remembers their daughter Doris McKently, was "just a tumbled down old mud house." The family made the dwelling habitable but kept changes at a minimal level and were careful to maintain its

historic integrity. "My father really bought the property for family and friends, and enjoyed relaxation from his busy medical practice with his little tractor, corn, vegetables, and boysenberries. There have been many happy occasions--classes on field trips, Tour of Homes for Glendale High . . . weddings, visitors from near and far, picnics and holiday celebrations." Mrs. Bashor, says Doris, was a peace-minded person and chose the name El Roble de La Paz (The Oak of Peace) for the property. It was Mrs. Bashor also who transformed the grounds into a lush, tranquil garden with meandering paths and quiet nooks for contemplation and relaxation. The venerable old "Oak of Peace" tree, under which the Generals Fremont and Pico planned the 1847 peace treaty which they later signed as the Treaty of Cahuenga, succumbed to age in 1983. However, the family left the huge stump of the tree, and it is still identified by an informational sign.

Over the years, the Bashor family has been very conscientious in their care of the Adobe and very generous in providing it as an educational resource for Glendale school and youth groups. Doris, who for many years taught elementary school in Glendale, has been an articulate and enthusiastic spokeswoman for the Adobe.



Signs identifying the "Oak of Peace" and original adobe wall add to the educational value of the Verdugo Adobe.

After Mrs. Jane Bashor passed away in June, 1988, the City of Glendale offered to purchase the Verdugo Adobe (where she had lived) with the aim of maintaining it as a valued historic property. The sale was completed this past summer, and a City committee has been formed to draw up plans for the use of the site. Serving on this committee are Nello Iacono and Scott Reese, Director and Assistant Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Robert McFall, Assistant City Manager; Dana Ogden, of the Planning Division; Vonnie Rossman and Bill Dodson, of the Historic Preservation Commission; and Ruth Dodson and Johnnie Davidson, of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission. As the Adobe is located in a residential area (Verdugo Woodlands), and as the property included the large, peaceful garden, the type of use will most likely be quiet and low-key.

TGHS will keep its members informed of the status of this most important landmark, which has survived so beautifully due to the love and care of the Bashor family.

Suzanne McKay
with thanks to Doris McKently

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The recent announcement that the Goode House project was being abandoned by developer Joe Ayvazi should serve as an example of "how not to" undertake a preservation project. While we laude Mr. Ayvazi's good intentions in attempting this project, we find its demise was caused by the failure to combine good preservation with good economics.

Preservation projects often have difficult economics. The buildings were designed for conditions that existed decades ago; restoration work is expensive; and the buildings are often small structures situated on expensive land. Property owners are tempted to demolish a historic building in order to replace it with something which will maximize the return on their investment. Federal and California governments have recognized these economic problems and have attempted to offer relief by providing tax benefits to the restorer. Mr. Ayvazi's project was not designed to take advantage of these incentives.

Senior housing projects also have economic problems, as land values and construction costs make rental rates unaffordable for the prospective tenants. The City of Glendale has a bonus program which allows more than the usual maximum number of units to be built on a lot, thereby lowering the ultimate cost per unit. However, the impact of the bonus system is limited by requirements that some of the units have reduced rent levels and that certain amenities, such as recreation rooms, be included. The effect of these requirements is to increase the rents on the majority of the units. New projects completed under these guidelines have reported problems renting the units because the needed rental rates are just too high for the seniors most in need of this type of housing.

The developer abandoned the project when it became apparent that the project would, based on the experience of other projects, be riskier than anticipated due to vacancy and marketing costs.

The Glendale Historical Society and Friends of Heritage filed appeals of the City's environmental and zoning decisions in an attempt to improve the project. There have been attempts to blame TGHS for causing delays that ultimately killed the project. However, this is not supported by the facts. The first appeal was filed fifteen months ago, and since then the appeals process occupied less than four months. The remaining eleven months were occupied by developer delays in completing the design work.

In the final analysis, the reasons for the failure of this project were the design and economic decisions made by the developer. There were alternatives involving either senior housing or other uses that would have improved both the economics and preservation aspects of the project. The failure to combine both good preservation and good economics are what ultimately doomed Mr. Ayvazi's project.

David Smith
President, TGHS

ALEX THEATRE UPDATE: THE EVENT

"THE EVENT at the Alex", scheduled for May 2 and 3, 1990, is actively being planned by a steering committee made up of members of The Glendale Historical Society and the Glendale Regional Arts Council. "THE EVENT" will be a mixed media show, featuring live stage acts, song and dance numbers, and film clips to recreate glimpses into the diverse entertainment that has graced the Alex stage and screen over its impressive 64-year history.

This pageant of the theatre's history will focus on the various types of programs that have characterized the decades --silent films and vaudeville acts, Fanchon and Marco musical extravaganzas, newsreels, the introduction of the "talkies", major studio sneak previews, bond rallies, fashion shows, cooking classes and even Chucko the Clown!

The purpose of the show is to entertain, of course, but at the same time to make the public aware of the potential of the Alex as Glendale's future performing arts center by reenacting highlights of the theatre's past. In addition, funds raised from "THE EVENT" will help establish the Foundation for the Arts, an organization which will serve to fund programs at the Alex and other arts programs in Glendale in the future.

The steering committee is currently seeking underwriting for the event. Mann Theatres has generously donated the use of the Alex for May 2 and 3. In addition, Glendale Studios has offered stage lights and costumes and the Glendale Music Theatre will provide technical assistance. It is hoped that through the donation of cash and in-kind services, all proceeds from ticket sales will go toward the establishment of the Foundation for the Arts and, in turn, toward the future of the Alex Theatre as Glendale's multi-use performing arts center.

Andrea Humberger
TGHS Preservation Action Task Force

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TGHS SPONSORS SECOND PRINTING OF PICTORIAL HISTORY

The popular 1983 Glendale Pictorial History is currently being prepared for updating and reprinting by its original publisher, the Donning Company. The Glendale Historical Society is working with the publishers in this endeavor, which includes adding a full color chapter on Glendale in the 1980s and a "Profiles in Leadership" section about the histories of various community businesses and organizations. Our members will be kept abreast of the progress of this joint effort, which is expected to come to fruition in May, 1990. We look forward to the publication of this second edition of the Glendale Pictorial History, which is such a comprehensive and interesting record of our city's past.

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Newsletter Editor: Suzanne McKay Assistant Editor: Dr. Robert Newcomb
Thanks to Helen Wrede for typing the newsletter, and to Bob Woodring, Karen Newcomb and Daphne Lindstrum for their help in the bulk mailing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 1989-1990

At our June General Membership meeting Margaret Hammond, Sue Lazara, and Almetta Hames were elected to three-year terms on the TGHS Board of Directors. Margaret is a continuing Director, and Sue and Almetta replace retiring Directors Dr. Robert Newcomb and the late Audrey Hales.

Sue brings to the Board a strong background in historic preservation. She did extensive research on The Doctors' House so that it could be restored as authentically as possible. For the past several years she has served on the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force, utilizing knowledge gained in conferences, research, and personal contacts to help us be effective in safeguarding our historic buildings. She served on the TGHS Board of Directors during the years 1982-1987.

Almetta has contributed greatly to the success and popularity of The Doctors' House, having been a very active docent for the past two years. She participated in the various centennial events, and used her special talents to help organize and set up the centennial displays in the City libraries. She has also been active in Whittier's historical society and in the Catalina Museum Association.

A warm welcome to Sue and Almetta as they join our Board. Many thanks to Margaret for her continuing service, and to Robert for his three years of effective commitment.

The Board elected the following officers at their June Board meeting:

President: David Smith
Vice President (Preservation): Sue Lazara
Vice President(The Doctors' House): Mary Sheppard
Vice President(Tours and Fundraising): Almetta Hames
Treasurer: Dick Montgomery
Secretary: Margaret Hammond
Historian: Jamee Harasick

Directors-at-Large are Bob Woodring and Dan Leimeter. The 1989-1990 Board and Officers were installed at our annual Awards and Installation ceremonies Sunday, September 17 at Casa Adobe de San Rafael.

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LIFE MAGAZINE FEATURES ALEX THEATRE

Glendale's own Alex Theatre is gaining nationwide exposure in the October issue of Life magazine. In a feature spotlighting 101 things "worth saving", single-screen movie theatres are mentioned with affection. The accompanying photograph pictures the Alex, with its name prominently displayed.

Will Glendale be true to Life? Watch this space for further updates!



Retiring TGHS President Robert Newcomb installs Board of Directors. Seated are Sue Lazara, David Smith, Dan Leimeter, Almetta Hames, Jamee Harasick and Dick Montgomery. (Photo by D. McKently)

TGHS AWARDS AND INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

Glendale Historical Society members and friends gathered in the garden of the historic Casa Adobe de San Rafael on Sunday September 17 for our annual Awards and Installation Ceremonies. This event launches the upcoming year of our activities and provides the chance to honor those who have contributed to our organization or to the furthering of our goal of increasing the awareness and appreciation of Glendale's historic and architectural heritage.

Retiring TGHS President Dr. Robert Newcomb installed the Board of Directors for 1989-1990.

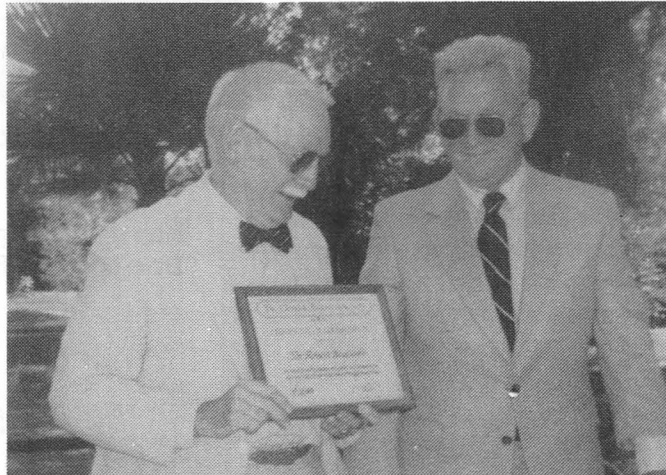
Awards were presented to the following in appreciation of their great service and commitment to various TGHS projects: Doris McKently, who played an important role in presenting our new map of Glendale historic sites to Glendale public and private schools and to owners of the listed properties; Sue Lazara, who served as liaison with Glendale Federal Bank (underwriters of map printing and distribution costs); Dick Montgomery, who has given eight years of service as TGHS Treasurer; Bob Woodring, who provides the computer services so vital to our membership roster and mailings; Margaret Hammond, who has organized and worked on so many of our tours; Robin Abramians, who drew the street map portion of our historic sites map; Alex Theatre Task Force members Connie Humberger, Andrea Humberger, Jeanne Graves, David Smith, and Barbara and Dan Leimeter, who have been devoting so much time and talent to this important issue; and to Lorraine Zabaro, Mary Sheppard, Elaine Deuel, and Judy Cabrara, who have served as Doctors' House docents since the house opened five years ago.

Three organizations also received awards for their role in furthering our goals in Glendale: Glendale Federal Bank, who with great community spirit provide their Carrillon Room for our monthly meetings and provided the funding for our historic map printing and distribution costs; Postmaster at Glendale's Main Post Office Hal Hemmingsen, who has proudly maintained this beautiful National Register building; Dave Urquidez, who set up a museum of Glendale postal history at the Main Post Office; the Glendale Regional Arts Council, which has been working closely with our Alex Theatre Task Force in ensuring the continued life of the Alex; and Glendale Beautiful, which was our predecessor in Glendale preservation and which is so generous in its staffing of Casa Adobe de San Rafael for the public and for our special events and tours.

The Zelia Blanton Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation was presented to retiring President Dr. Robert Newcomb. Robert was one of the charter members of The Glendale Historical Society, the original newsletter editor, and a Director from 1986-1989. He has been unflagging in his service as Assistant Newsletter Editor since 1981 and as Program (monthly meeting speakers) Chair since 1982. In addition, he has contributed his enthusiasm and speaking talent to our many Glendale area tours. Robert has been an invaluable asset to our organization.

We are pleased to recognize the generous commitment of both members and the community at large. We thank them, and look forward to their continuing involvement in the year to come.

Suzanne McKay



Dan Leimeter presents the Zelia Blanton Woodring Award to Robert Newcomb. (Photo by D. McKently)

CHRISTMAS AT THE DOCTORS' HOUSE

"A Victorian Christmas" will be re-created at The Doctors' House on December 9 (Saturday), 10, and 17 (Sundays). A tall tree in the parlor will be festooned with turn-of-the-century ornaments, and the various rooms will be adorned with traditional holiday decorations.

The celebration begins on Saturday, December 9. A children's program will take place from 10 am until 12 noon, with Mrs. Santa Claus and two special elves greeting children in the kitchen. Outside, Mary McVay will be showing the young visitors how to make ornaments for their tree. Parents are invited to bring their children and experience a warm holiday mood. The house will reopen from 1 pm to 4 pm for Open House. Everyone is cordially invited to bring friends and family to The Doctors' House, where they can re-experience the gentleness and charm of Christmas a century ago.

The holiday schedule for The Doctors' House is as follows: Sundays December 3, 10, and 17, docent-guided tours 2 pm - 4 pm; Sundays December 24 and 31, closed; Saturday December 9, children's activities 10 am 12 noon and open house 1 pm - 4 pm.

Mary Sheppard
Doctors' House Liaison

NOSTALGIC SUMMER "AFTERNOON IN THE PARK" AT THE DOCTORS' HOUSE

The Doctors' House and its grounds in Brand Park provided the perfect setting for our summertime "Afternoon in the Park" held this year on Sunday, September 10. Guests of all ages enjoyed the nostalgia and fun of an old-fashioned afternoon including entertainment, refreshments, a vintage car display, and open house at The Doctors' House.

Hosts and hostesses from TGHS were on hand to make the afternoon a pleasant one and to welcome the 350 visitors who enjoyed walking through The Doctors' House at their leisure. The early-model cars were mainly from the San Fernando and Foothill branches of the Chevrolet Car Club of America. Private exhibitors included Ruth and Bill Dodson, Sid Gordon and Shannon Pedlow. The restored Glendale fire truck was thoroughly enjoyed, although because the LAPD paddy wagon had an accident the preceding week we missed the Koppers' skit. Sid Gordon played his 1906 phonograph, adding to the atmosphere. His brother Steven again entertained with daring feats of riding on an "Eagle" bicycle, and Dave Moore displayed his expertise on his "penny farthing".

Many thanks to all those who helped make this "Afternoon in the Park" so much fun for all who attended.

Mary Sheppard
Doctors' House Liaison



Stephen Gordon entertained guests with fancy trick-riding on his "Eagle" bicycle. (Photo by M. Baker)

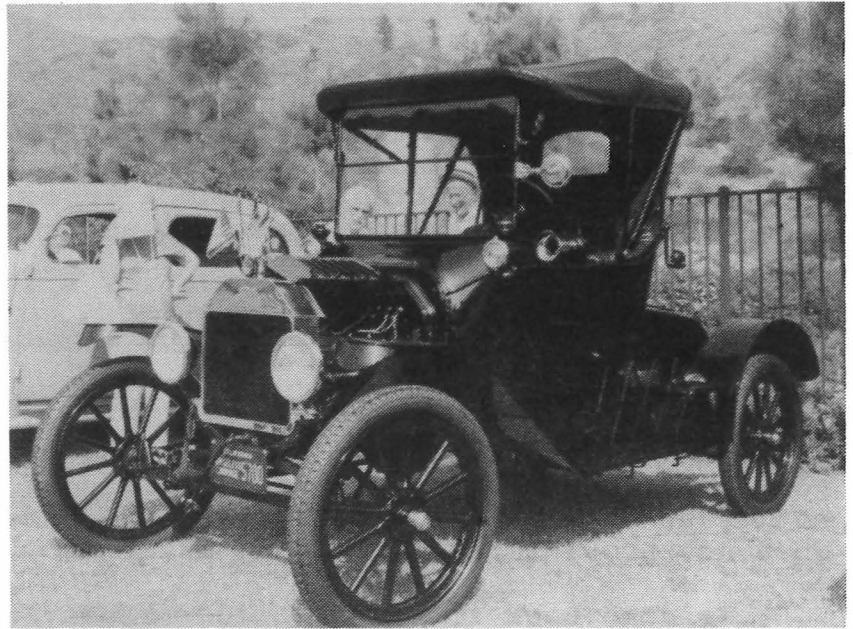


Pat Sharon admires Mariah Pasos' twin dolls riding in their antique baby stroller. (Photo by M. Baker)



Mary Sheppard welcomes descendants of one-time Doctors' House resident Dr. Hunt to the "Afternoon in the Park". Coleen Cardinale, right, brought her daughter Janis (center) and grandchildren Sebrina, Adam, and baby to the event. On the porch, Sid Gordon takes a break from his 1906 Victor Talking Machine. (Photo by W. A. Sheppard)

Scenes of
an
"Afternoon
in the
Park"



Visitors admire one of the early model cars on display. (Photo by M. Baker)



Guests enjoy the varied sights and sounds of a turn-of-the-century summer afternoon at The Doctors' House. (Photo by M. Baker)

DOCTORS' HOUSE CHINA SET AUGMENTED

The Doctors' House china is here! After searching for eight years the Acquisitions Committee located a major group of pieces of the lovely green ivy on white Haviland #834A. Over the years, one cup and two vegetable dishes had been purchased.

The china was found in Pasadena at Estates Unlimited, owned by Bonnie Dunlap. It was an incomplete set, so we were able to buy only what we needed. We now have four dinner, lunch, and salad plates in addition to several serving dishes. We are still looking for cups and saucers.

This year the Thanksgiving table in The Doctors' House dining room will be appropriately set for company!

Mary Sheppard

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ALMETTA HAMES TO CHAIR DOCTORS' HOUSE ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

The Doctors' House Acquisitions Committee for 1989-1990 will be chaired by Almetta Hames, with new member Merry Franzen heading up the antique clothing section. Ethel Shearer has also joined the Committee, which includes Bille Knox, Vonnie Rossman, Mary Sheppard, and Lorraine Zabaro. This committee has done a tremendous job of furnishing The Doctors' House, and we wish them continued successes and surprises.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership cards for the period July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990, have now been mailed to all new and renewing members. If you did not receive your renewal notice or your card, please contact TGHS at 242-7447. Please notify us of any change of address, because our bulk mailing postage rate does not provide for forwarding mail.

Welcome back to all renewing members, and special thanks to our Corporate and Sustaining members for their generosity and support. Sustaining and Corporate members for 1989-1990 are the following:

- Charmay Allred
- Eileen Davitian
- F. W. Doll
- Michael and Carole Dougherty
- Harry W. Gorst
- Connie Humberger
- John W. Knight Insurance Company
- Mr. and Mrs. David Lawton
- Dan and Barbara Leimeter
- Mr. and Mrs. Don Penniall
- Charles Walton
- James and Carole Weling

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THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Fall-Winter 1989-1990

- OCTOBER 17- FEBRUARY 18 "Blueprints For Modern Living." Exhibition of domestic architecture and lifestyles in the 1940's, 50's and early 60's. Includes a furnished full-sized 1945-style home, and models and blueprints of the innovative Case Study Houses program. Temporary Contemporary Museum, 152 N. Central, Los Angeles. For further information phone (213) 62-MOCA-2.
- NOVEMBER 1 Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. "Early Glendale On Postcards." Jackie Webreck will be presenting a show of slides and postcards from her large collection.
- NOVEMBER 4 Saturday "Pasadena's Finest." Self-guided tour of some of Pasadena's finest mansions, including several interiors. 10 am - 4 pm. For reservations and ticket information contact Pasadena Heritage (818) 793-0617.
- DECEMBER 9 Saturday "A Victorian Christmas" at The Doctors' House, Brand Park. Children's activities 10 am - 12 noon, family open house 1 pm - 4 pm. Free. Enjoy turn-of-the-century atmosphere and holiday warmth. See newsletter article.
- DECEMBER TGHS annual Yuletide festivities. Members will receive invitations by mail. Hope to see you all there!
- JANUARY 3 Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Business meeting to review current projects and issues.

---Continuing---

Sundays The Doctors' House, Brand Park, 1601 W. Mountain. Open free to the public from 2 pm to 4 pm. Docent-guided tours of the restored Queen Anne-Eastlake style home. (Closed December 24 and 31.)

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Don Busik, about to enjoy the eternally good taste of popcorn during TGHS's "Afternoon in the Park."
(Photo by M. Baker)

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Cindy Ohara, Gladys Devaney, Susan Curson, Vincent Cicone, Elizabeth Hansen, Dana Ogden, Bruce Hale, Vrej Mardian, Aleene Sutherland, Marilyn Baker, Lyle Blane, and Greg Hohenstein.

Membership in the Glendale Historical Society is open to all persons interested in learning about, promoting, and preserving aspects of Glendale's history. Members receive quarterly newsletters, announcements of events, discounts on TGHS tours, and the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. Annual dues are \$15 for single active, \$25 for family active, \$50 for sustaining, \$5 for student/senior, \$25 for non-profit organization, and \$100 for corporate.

General meetings are held monthly (except December, July and August) at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, in the Carrillon Room, Glendale Federal Bank, 401 North Brand Boulevard. Telephone: 242-7447

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ () New Member () Renewing Member

I would like to assist in the following area(s):

EDUCATION
RESEARCH
CLERICAL

PRESERVATION ACTION
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP
WAYS AND MEANS
DOCENT GUILD

OTHER _____

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