



The Glendale Historical Society

TGHS QUARTERLY

Volume 19, Number 1

Winter (A Little Late) 1998

DOCTORS' HOUSE MUSEUM YEAR IN REVIEW - YEAR IN PREVIEW

by: Isabelle Meyer

As 1998 has just begun, this seems an appropriate time to review last year's events at the Doctors' House and then look ahead to our plans for 1998.

Our 1997 Valentine's Day dinner raffle proved another good fundraiser. During the summer, we reprised our Nell Shipman artifacts and exhibit with the help of Terry Richman who did the original research and assembled the artifacts. September brought a new and popular quilt exhibit with over 50 unique pieces shown throughout the museum. This was made possible by a cooperative effort of some enthusiastic members of the Glendale Quilt Guild, who staged live quilting demonstrations each Sunday. Several of our members, Judy Cabrera, Doyle Kutch and Cheryl Witzig, lent us pieces from their own collections. Last, but not least, our December Candlelight Tours were a bigger success than ever.

Many thanks to all of you who helped in some way and most especially to our docents who make the museum accessible to the public all year long.

The first major event of 1998 was the annual Valentine's Day dinner raffle. Again, a successful fundraiser for the organization.

In March and April, we are displaying the many lovely items from the Fell/White Clothing/Accessories Collection. Thanks to an annual donation by Mrs. Betty Andrew, we are able to restore several items each year and make this display more enticing. Please bring your friends. (Continued on next page)

Doctors' House Museum (Continued from Page 1). We hope to have a first-time needlecraft exhibit during May and June. TGHS is receiving a fabulous collection of needlecraft works from a donor in Northern California. This donation would not be forthcoming if not for the efforts of our ever-vigilant Dr. Robert Newcomb. The exhibit will include a variety of gorgeous hand-crafted Victorian pieces in each room.

During September and October, we will repeat our hugely successful exhibit on Victorian mourning customs which we have quietly expanded since its last showing. Do not miss it.

After that, we head into the Christmas season. Two nights of Candlelight Tours will be occur on December 12 and December 19. We have decided to expand the tour hours from two hours to two and one-half hours.

We seem to have found a workable balance between rotating previous exhibits and adding one new one each year. This keeps the museum fresh for repeat visitors and at the same time allows people to come back and see a display they enjoyed in the past.

Training for new docents will begin shortly. We are especially in need of docents for weekday school tours. Anyone interested in becoming a docent should call Isabelle Meyer at (818) 242-4290.

See you at the Doctors' House.

(The Doctors' House is operated by The Glendale Historical Society which funds the special exhibits, maintenance of the museum's artifacts, and day to day operation of the museum. All TGHS Doctors' House docents serve the community on a volunteer basis. Although tours are free, your \$1 donation per person help us make your Doctors' House visit possible.)

DEBORAH DENTLER APPOINTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

TGHS member, Deborah Dentler has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the TGHS Board of Directors. Deborah has been a TGHS member for several years and has been active with the Preservation Advocacy Committee. Deborah is an attorney and also teaches history at Glendale College. We welcome Deborah to the Board and know that she will find her Board service rewarding.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE NEEDED

Three members from the general membership are needed to help two of the Directors nominate this year's candidates for the Board of Directors.

TGHS bylaws require nominations be announced at the May meeting. Elections occur at the Society's annual business meeting in June.

If willing to serve on the selection committee please call TGHS President at (818) 507-1999.

TGHS QUARTERLY EDITOR'S NOTE

As our readers can see, this issue of the *TGHS Quarterly* is a little late. Please accept my apologies. But life's little problems keep getting in the way of my TGHS volunteer duties. I hope to get the Spring issue out more timely.

Thanks to Dr. Robert Newcomb, Marie Luft, Isabelle Meyer, and David Smith for their help in making this newsletter possible.

COME JOIN OUR NEW "BRASS, GLASS & BROOM CLUB"!

by: Marie Luft

In its incipient stage, the Brass, Glass & Broom Club has yet to be officially born. Requiring 20 hours of maintenance time at the Doctors' House before becoming a full-fledged member, the Club is fast on its way to acquiring its charter members. Hours have been accumulating since July 1997.

The January 17th work party saw Wallie Forstall and Glenn Luft addressing their specialties, windows ("I don't do windows," Wallie once declared) and ceiling lighting fixtures. Glenn also is the "Break It and He Will Fix It" man. Kitty Shannon has become our mirror and glass specialist; and Denise Tari is a whirling Mrs. Clean in the working bath and kitchen. Dr. Bob Newcomb's forte became self-evident when he let slip he had been in the navy: our brass man. In the working kitchen, for pure organizational skills and the nerve to identify and to throw out junk, Isabelle Meyer is nonpareil. Lorraine Forstall pilots a mean vacuum cleaner and Judith Ghougassian, one of our youngest docents, is a whiz with a broom. Merry Franzen and Cheryl Witzig are "jackettes of all trades" and masters of them all, willing to put their efforts wherever most needed. Many thanks to all of you for the hard work. Several workers have between 9 and 15 hours towards membership. Others who have accumulated hours, but were unable to participate in the last clean-up are: Bonnie Fitzgerald, Sid Gordon, Dawn Schensterom, and Emily Wargo. We all also miss Craig Montgomery.

As a matter of interest, it takes approximately 60 people-hours per session to thoroughly clean the House and tung-oil the antiques on a regular basis. We should have work parties at the House every three months. Emily Wargo commented once that she had visited other historic properties and what she noticed first was the general dinginess of many of them. Isabelle Meyer also recently had a student group visit the museum, one of whom said, "This house cannot be that old. It is too clean!" So your help is very much appreciated and very much needed to maintain the Doctors' House as our place of pride.

If you are interested in joining the Brass, Glass & Broom Club, call Marie Luft (818) 247-2452. The happy group gets together on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a bring-your-own-lunch break. A fun time is had by everyone. In fact, Wallie Forstall is in charge of lunch-time entertainment, and that time counts toward your hours. So come work and play with us and watch this space for further developments.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

TGHS welcomes its newest members and hopes that we will see them at various events.:

Nita Alvarado
David Brizuela
Marian Cairns
Helen Turner
Robert & Sharon Thompson

ARCHIVE DONATION

Thank you to Louise Ritchie who donated two Hoover High School Scrolls to the TGHS archives. TGHS is always looking for yearbooks from our local schools. The contents of these annuals are a wonderful resource of activities, businesses (they are full of ads) and people from Glendale's past. Call TGHS at (818) 242-7447 to make a donation.

ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOURS AT THE VICTORIAN DOCTORS' HOUSE A ROARING SUCCESS - December 1997

by: Robert M. Newcomb

The Society can be very proud that some 628 visitors toured our Doctors' House during our two Candlelight Tour Evenings, held on the 13th and 20th of December. From donations, merchandise sales, and our Bake Sales, we netted \$ 700. A good spread in the Glendale News-Press and the Art Sale at Brand Studio on the 13th contributed to our public relations outreach, an effort which was supported vigorously through our mailing of flyers and handing around our attractive announcement sheet. The effort required a maximum amount of time and energy from all of our Docent Guild members, since this year we not only had to be on candlelight watch with fire extinguishers ready, but we were also involved in acting out "Life Scenes" within the various rooms of the House. To the participants, this mix of duties was most enjoyable and most productive in terms of the obvious popularity of our augmented 1997 Tours.

Working effort began with the opening up of the House before each Program. Once again we used Luminaries along the road up to the House from the parking lot. A classic car was on display each evening and Sid's kerosene lantern provided atmosphere behind the efforts of Gerard Petrone, Larry Meyer, and Bob Newcomb. Welcoming visitors at the front door were Nancie Pike and Isabelle Meyer on two successive nights. In the Parlor Deidre Tari and Denise Tari provided piano music and a welcoming presence.

The second evening Brenda Grice favored visitors with lovely harp music, Doris McKently spelled her at the piano, and Mary Arevalo helped to greet the visitors. Isabelle had designed and duplicated some charming Prescription Forms which were in the Doctors' Office should one wish "Three grams of Yuletide Cheer" or "An Elixir of Merry Christmas" in order to see the Festive Season through. Bill Shepherd, Art Fisher, and Bob Newcomb took turns writing out these good cheer missives and dispensing information about our House and its residents of a century ago. In the Bedroom Emily Wargo and Bonnie Fitzgerald fulfilled the role of mistress of the House arising from the bed to comb her hair and to buff her nails while telling about domestic life of a century ago.

Visitors were directed upstairs from the Bedroom so that they might enjoy seeing Judy Cabrera at work on sewing and stitching in the Sewing Nook, and Merry Franzen and Judy Sackson reading to a tiny child in its crib in the Childrens' Room. Stationed in the Sales Room were David Smith, Nancie Pike, Bill Shepherd, and Jean Kohler.

A special offering on display in the Sales Room both nights was the elegant "Lace in Stone" chinaware produced by Carol Klingenberg, owner, CJ's Gourmet Emporium in Pasadena.

Returning downstairs from the Sales Room, visitors were directed into the dining room where Terry Richman or Anna Rundle were stationed each night to provide a homey touch as they folded linens and attended to the setting of the family's supper table.

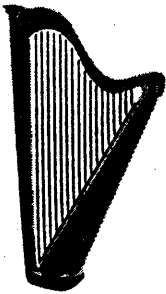
The walk-through, self-guided tour of the Doctors' House ended in our fascinating Kitchen where we had set up our Bake Sale. Those participating in this successful effort included Cheryl Witzig, Carol Eckert, Carole Dougherty, and Helen Wrede. We sold-out all of the wares which we had on hand, and the report was that we had more requests for baked goods the

Candlelight Success (Continued) second night than we could fill. Those on duty with the Luminaries and Sid's lantern noted many of the visitors returned to the parking lot while happily munching on delicious baked goods from our sale.

As the visitors exited the House via the kitchen porch, they were well serenaded, thanks to Sid Gordon and his antique records of Christmas Season Music. The youthful docents, Iveta Petrosyan, Adriana Abramian, Lilia Ebrahimian and Judith Ghougassian were present on the front lawn to bid our visitors farewell and to sell raffle tickets for a musical doll.

Our efforts on these two nights demanded much of the Docents in both time and energy, but our work was indeed favorably supported by the weather which, while being of a brisk temperature, was neither rainy nor particularly windy. As a reporter, my apologies for anyone's name which has been omitted from this writing. As a participant in our Candlelight Tours, 1997, I can only say that all of the hard work and sound planning were crowned with success, and, using this experience, we can hope to look forward to yet another successful Yuletide Season at our elegant and softly lit Doctors' House in 1998.

The following individuals and businesses contributed their time, talents and equipment to make the Candlelight Tours successful. TGHS thanks them.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - TGHS presents docent guided tours of the Doctors' House Museum. Come see how grandmother and grandfather lived in 1900. The Doctors' House is located in Brand Park, adjacent to Brand Library. 1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale. Tours of the Doctors' House are free, but a \$1 per person donation is recommended. Call (818) 242-7447. (*Closed Easter and Mother's Day*).

Saturday, May 2, 1998, 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. - The Alex Film Society presents "All About Eve" starring Bette Davis, Anne Baxter and George Sanders at the historic Alex Theatre. Call AFS at (818) 754-8250.

Wednesday, May 6, 1998, 7:30 p.m. - TGHS Lecture Series. Isable Soule will speak about one family's Glendale history. Boy Scout Service Center, 1325 Grandview Avenue, Glendale. Call (818) 242-7447. Free and open to the public.

May 7 - 10, 1998. California Preservation Foundation 23rd Annual Conference, "New Perspectives on Preservation." This year's conference is being held in Berkeley. Contact CPF for further details. Call (510) 763-0972.

Wednesday, June 3, 1998, 7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting of the Society, including committee reports and election of Board Members. Boy Scout Service Center, 1325 Grandview Avenue, Glendale. Call (818) 242-7447.

ELLEN PERRY LECTURE ENJOYED BY ALL AS TGHS LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES *by: William Shepherd*

Local historian, Ellen Perry, gave a highly amusing and enlightening talk to a crowded TGHS meeting room at the Boy Scout Service Center on March 4, 1998.

Ellen took many of the crowd back to their childhood days when Glendale still had fruit orchards and strawberry fields. Ellen's knowledge of who lived in what house and of where everyone shopped, dined out and went to be entertained is unrivaled.

TGHS thanks Ellen for her visit and hopes she will return again and take us on another trip down memory lane.

PRESERVATION UPDATE

The TGHS Preservation Advocacy Committee met on February 26, 1998 to discuss current preservation issues. Among the issues discussed was that Amtrack will not be moving back into the train station. The Preservation Advocacy Committee is asking TGHS members to make recommendations for ways to use the historic station. We will then forward them to City staff for their consideration. Anyone with an idea should drop us a line at:

The Glendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 4173
Glendale CA 91202.



An Invitation to Join the Glendale Historical Society

The Glendale Historical Society was formed in 1979 by a group of citizens who banded together to save the Doctors' House from demolition. The Society led the grass roots efforts of the 1980s to relocate the house to Brand Park and to authentically restore and furnish the house to its 19th century appearance. From this beginning, the organization quickly grew and initiated other programs related to the preservation of the heritage of Glendale.

The goals and objectives of the Glendale Historical Society are to:

- Advance the study and appreciation of local history.
- Promote the preservation of structures and sites that are culturally significant for their historical or architectural importance.
- To be an advocate for the preservation of historical resources.
- To insure the continued public access and enjoyment of the Doctors' House.

The Glendale Historical Society is a non-profit tax-exempt organization and membership is open to men and women of all ages. Members receive the *TGHS Quarterly* newsletter, announcements to all meetings and events, discounts on selected TGHS merchandise and tours. Special membership events include the annual Christmas party, Awards Program, Fall Picnic and Installation Ceremony. New members will receive an initiation to a special welcoming reception. Members joining at the sustaining and higher levels will receive special recognition in the *TGHS Quarterly*. All new members will receive a copy of the TGHS map *Historic Sites in Glendale, California*.

Membership Application

Annual Dues

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewel City Patron (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verdugo Patron (\$250) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Senior or Student (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tropico Patron (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (\$35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/dual (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$100) |

Name

Telephone

Address

City, State & Zip

Please return this form to:
The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202
For Information Call 818-242-7447

Its our heritage...please join us in saving it

TGHS QUARTERLY

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