



The Glendale Historical Society

TGHS QUARTERLY

Volume 22, Number 1

Late Spring 2001

SOCIETY'S EDUCATIONAL FORUM ATTRACTS IMPASSIONED AUDIENCE OF PRESERVATION ENTHUSIASTS!

By: Arlene Vidor

We had a full house at the Brand Library & Art Center Recital Hall on May 10th for the Glendale Historical Society's public forum entitled "Preserving the Integrity of Your Glendale Historic Home and Neighborhood." The forum highlighted three speakers. First, Rosemarie Ibanez, the Society's Preservation Liaison took us on a pictorial tour of Glendale's landmark residences. She was followed by Trudi Sandmeier of the Los Angeles Conservancy, who gave an informative talk on the basic elements of historic preservation and the Mills Act tax incentives. Jim Glaser of the City of Glendale Planning Division discussed the City's perspective as administrator of public policy in respect to historic preservation. Mr. Glaser's slide show included pictures of some beloved landmarks lost to redevelopment, like the Egyptian Village Cafe, as well as some of the current and restored landmark buildings.

The three presentations were followed by a very animated question and answer period. Many attendees voiced complaints directed at the City about inappropriate and unpermitted modifications to the defining features of vintage homes. Attendees also expressed frustration with inconsistencies in the City's Design Review Board procedures, which are suppose to ensure, among other things, compliance with the City of Glendale's design guidelines.

Interested and qualified residents were encouraged at the forum to consider applying for service on the City's Design Review Board or Historic Preservation Commission. It was stressed by Mr. Glaser that the City Planning Division will work with the community to help create a culture of historic preservation, but he also emphasized that the impetus for change will be fostered by community involvement.

In addition to long-standing TGHS members, there were many new faces at the meeting and Society membership increased. The residents of Rossmoyne and Adams Hill were especially enthusiastic in voicing their support of some type of historic district. After adjournment, a few kind folks came forward to generously volunteer their time and talents to initiating the evaluation of an historic district. The current restrictive municipal code on the requirements for historic districts would have to be relaxed to make this feasible. (Continued on Page 2.)

Forum (Continued from Page 1)

Following the momentum created by the forum, TGHS intends to form sub-committees to take action on the Historic District Initiative. Other suggestions are welcome, but we need more people to get involved as our current active membership group is quite "stretched" with many projects.

We look forward to working together with the community, our City, and various stakeholders to create a living appreciation of our historic and architectural resources in Glendale. The Forum proved that Glendale's citizens are second to none in their commitment to celebration of our local history and architectural heritage.

The Society would like to thank Trudi Sandmeier of the Los Angeles Conservancy, Jim Glaser of the City of Glendale, and Rosemarie Ibanez of the Society for their presentations. The Forum was organized by volunteers and thanks go to: Rosemarie Ibanez, Deborah Dentler, Suzanne McKay, Robert Newcomb, Margaret Hammond and Isabelle Meyer of the Society for their teamwork, as well as the staff of the Brand Library and Art Center, who gave generously of their time to ensure a successful event.

DOCTORS' HOUSE HAPPENINGS

By: Isabelle Meyer

This year's Valentine's Day raffle proved more financially successfully than ever. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of our members and some of our visitors, we raised close to \$1,000. La Fontana Restaurant once again provided the winning couple with a delicious dinner and the charming atmosphere of our dining room and private tour of the museum made for an enjoyable and romantic evening.

During March and April, our Victorian Mourning Customs exhibit returned for the third time. This year's display had new authentic materials and artifacts.

Thanks to a grant from the Endowment for the Humanities, we are currently privileged to display an extensive Armenian Dowry which tells the story of Victoria and Mannik Telefyan, two young Armenian sisters living in 1900. The exhibit was compiled and arranged by Glendale poet and teacher, Tina Demirdjian, great granddaughter of Victoria and Mannik.

The exhibit focuses on material from the late Victorian and Edwardian periods (1893-1902), reflects a mixture of western and eastern, ancient and modern styles and customs. This collection is fittingly displayed in the Doctors' House, which depicts life in Glendale around the year 1900.

We welcomed two new docents to our program. Shannon McShane and Jim Nesella are enthusiastic new members of our docent guild. We appreciate the work of all our docents, without whom we would not be able to offer our public tours. Please take advantage of our museum's exhibits, TGHS members are always free!

TGHS NOW ON THE INTERNET!

By: *Suzanne McKay*

The Glendale Historical Society now has a web site. The site, www.glendalehistorical.org, enables members and the public to learn about our organization's mission, our meetings and events, current Glendale preservation issues, The Doctors' House and its exhibits, how to become a member, and more.

In addition to keeping our members abreast of happenings, it also helps fulfill our organization's goal of educating people about Glendale's history and historic and architecturally significant sites, and promoting the preservation of these sites, homes, and neighborhoods. It includes an illustrated history of Glendale, a list of books on Glendale history, and information about Glendale historic landmarks. It has links to related information on the Internet, such as the City of Glendale's online Register of Historic Resources and the National Trust's web site.

Many thanks to the following people, who helped Suzanne McKay with the content, testing, photograph scanning, and installation of the web site: Rosemarie Ibanez, Arlene Vidor, David Smith, Isabelle Meyer, Andrea Humberger, Deborah Dentler, Jordan Segall, Dominic Rayner, and Carole Dougherty. Everyone's effort contributed to the quality of the site.

The web site will be further developed and updated, so check it regularly. If you have ideas for enhancing the site or would like to participate in its further development, please contact Suzanne McKay at (818) 242-7447.

TGHS OFFICE REPORT

By: *Isabelle Meyer*

During the past few months, a lot of behind-the-scenes work has been going on in our office in the Goode House. New TGHS volunteers, Mona Robinson and Adele Cavalier, plus long time volunteers, Suzanne McKay and Isabelle Meyer, have been inventorying, organizing and updating our archives.

The plan is to make our treasures more accessible not only to our own members, but to allow us to find information requested by members of the public. We frequently get calls for information related to Glendale's past, and even though we are not in a position to open the office to public access, we will be able to do research of our own to provide such information.

The TGHS Board approved the purchase of a large table which will be used as a work surface, something that was not previously available to our office staff.

Mona has graciously consented to keep our membership file on the computer up-to-date on a monthly basis, which will help provide all our members with mailings. Thanks to the success of the recent preservation workshop at Brand Library, we have eleven new members to welcome to our organization. A welcome reception for them and all our members will be held on September 5, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Doctors' House gazebo. We hope you will join us.

Mona is an employee of Brand Library and well qualified to lend a hand in organizing our office. We owe her, Adele, Suzanne and Isabelle a debt of gratitude for taking the time to make our office more presentable and user friendly.

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The Glendale Historical Society

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Find TGHS at: www.glendalehistorical.org

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Glendale Historical Society invites you to become a member. The Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Membership is open to all.

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