



The Glendale Historical Society

TGHS QUARTERLY

Volume 23, Number 3

Summer 2002

Historic Districting Update,

by Helen Sipsas

Like the summer weather, Glendale's historic districting movement is heating up! We have addressed City Council, and the Planning Commission as well as maintained an ongoing dialog with the Historic Preservation Commission. We have repeatedly emphasized publicly that our biggest obstacle to district creation continues to be "The 100% consent requirement". The current City Ordinance requires 100% consent from all homeowners to establish a Historic District, making it virtually impossible to create Historic Districts in Glendale. TGHS has redrafted the current City Ordinance to include, in addition to the desirable "simple majority (i.e., 51%) consent, an outline of how to apply for, review, and maintain a historic district within Glendale. This new draft Ordinance includes a provision for each district formed to establish a Preservation Plan under which changes to historic structures will be assessed. This approach is similar to that taken in many other municipalities in Southern California. The Ordinance rewrite has been distributed to City Planning Staff as well as the Planning and HP Commissioners and is under review. We have also distributed a copy of the Cumberland Heights-specific Preservation Plan to the same individuals and City Council Members. More public outreach is expected in the future. As of this writing, a date for Council to vote on an Ordinance amendment has not been set but the TGHS Historic District Committee is working hard to press for a revised Ordinance with relaxed consent requirements to be placed on the City Council's agenda for adoption.

In other news, the historic districting committee is actively promoting TGHS and our historic districting initiative throughout the city:

(continued on Page 2)

neighborhoods

The Glendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 4173
Glendale, CA 91202
(818) 242-7447
www.glendalehistorical.org

TGHS Volunteer Staff Members

We have reformatted our credits list to include, in addition to Board Members, other active volunteer staff, reflecting the many roles and responsibilities, new and existing, within The Society. As activities and involvements emerge, we will update this list.

TGHS Quarterly

Rosemarie Ibañez, Editor
Daphne Lindstrom, Bulk Mailing

TGHS Board Of Directors

Arlene Vidor, President
Helen Sipsas, Vice President
Rosemarie Ibañez, Secretary
Margaret Hammond, Treasurer
Isabelle Meyer, Board Member
Vic Pallos, Board Member
David Smith, Board Member

Doctors' House

1601 W Mountain Ave, Glendale, CA 91202
Tours: Sundays 2-4PM Suggested donation: \$2.00
Events & tours: 818-242-4290
Photo & Gazebo Reservations: 818-548-2147

Doctors' House Docents Guild

Lead Docents: Brooke Applegate, Judy Cabrera, Scott Draper, Merry Franzen, Anna Rundle, Judy Sackson, Emily Williams, Helen Wrede

Docents: DeAnna Bonin, Dany Carol, Barbara Conry, Helen Cunning, Joan Doyle, Florence & Scott W. Draper, Cynthia Eligio, Art Fisher, Hyak Garibjanyan, Valerie Glazer, Elizabeth Hickman, Doris McKently, Shannon McShane, Joan Morrie, Sue Nelson, Jim Nesella, Jenny Ruiz, Bill Shepard, Mary Underwood, Paula Wadhner

Doctors' House Docent Staff

Brooke Applegate, Docent Training
Jenny Ruiz, Docent Training
Scott Draper, Group/School Tours
Judy Cabrera, Finance
Emily Williams, City Liaison
Dany Carol, Scheduling
Anna Rundle, Acquisitions

Other:

Arlene Vidor/Rosemarie Ibañez, Preservation Advocacy
Doris Biggs, Membership
Don Ramirez, Planned Giving
Patricia Messina, Event Planning
Mona Robinson, Archivist
Michael Klem, Webmaster
Helen Sipsas, Historic District Committee

- Saturday June 15th, TGHS volunteers manned a booth at the "Adams Square A'faire". Many Adams Hill residents expressed an interest in working with TGHS to create their own Historic District and were willing to sign our petition to reduce the "100% consent requirement" to a simple 51% majority.

- Sunday June 16th, new TGHS members Tom Ferriso and Mike Brazil invited their neighbors over for a wine and cheese gathering to discuss the creation of the proposed Cumberland Heights district in N.W. Glendale. Over 30 neighbors attended and signed our petition to create Cumberland Heights and the historic districting committee also gained several new enthusiastic members.

- At the end of June, we have obtained signatures from just over 25% of the 500 homes in the proposed Cumberland Heights district.

We have received considerable support for historic districting throughout the city, and TGHS has had a significant increase in its membership, and financial contributions as a result of our efforts. Based on all this support, it appears that the preservation winds are beginning to shift in our favor and we have a real shot at changing the entire climate of Glendale with respect to historic preservation! We knew it wasn't going to be easy create Historic Districts in Glendale, but it will be all that more sweet when we succeed! If you would like to become involved with the historic districting committee please contact Helen Sipsas at 956-0596 or email hsipsas@yahoo.com

NEWSFLASH:
Doctors' House Curator Extraordinaire,
Isabelle Meyer, Retires

Dear TGHS Members,

After nine years of intense involvement running of the Doctors' House Museum, I have decided I need a rest, and will step down from my post as curator on July 31st and take the opportunity to help my daughter prepare for her wedding. Although change is never easy, I am very confident that, in handing the reins over to the members of the Doctors' House Docent Guild, the museum will be in excellent hands. I also know that previously untapped talent will come forward and new ideas will revitalize the program.

This is a good opportunity to thank our docents and the TGHS members for their support. As much as I would like to take the credit for its success, this is obviously due to the active involvement of many people committed to the preservation of our unique house museum. I am really going to miss pattering around the House and converting ideas into projects and exhibits. I've learned things you cannot learn from any college, and I am deeply grateful for that opportunity.

Thanks also go to the staff's firm commitment to authenticity, as you will find that every piece in the collection is meticulously maintained and true to the House's period. The staff and I are proud to say that our standards of preservation match those of major institutions.

My wish is for all TGHS members to visit the Doctors' House to enjoy the wonderful, unusual exhibits and serene environment -- which is so relaxing and welcoming after a hectic week. I promise you will leave feeling proud to be a part of an organization that strives to preserve such a vibrant asset in our community.

*Isabelle Meyer,
Curator*

Doctors' House Events

by Isabelle Meyer

Rare Framed Hair-Sculpture Collection Collection on Display

A most unusual Victorian custom, well suited to the sentimental mindset of the typical 19th century family, was to fashion strands of human hair into magnificent jewelry and decorative art to be worn or displayed in the home. TGHS is pleased to be hosting Carmelita Johnson's rare collection of framed human hair sculptures, thanks to the generosity of her daughter, Andrea Tice, who has made these unbelievable pieces available to us. The display will hang in the Doctors' House parlor for one year.

For the proper Victorian lady who wished to give hair sculpting a try, women's periodicals of the day provided instructions on how to craft these unique mementoes. For those not artistically inclined, the hair could be sent to a professional "hair spider", who would render a work of art for a hefty sum of money. This custom probably seems very odd to you, but we'd like to encourage everyone to open your minds and come to the Doctors' House to learn about yourself and our past as you view an obscure art form that illustrates beautifully how different our sentiments are from those of our forebears.

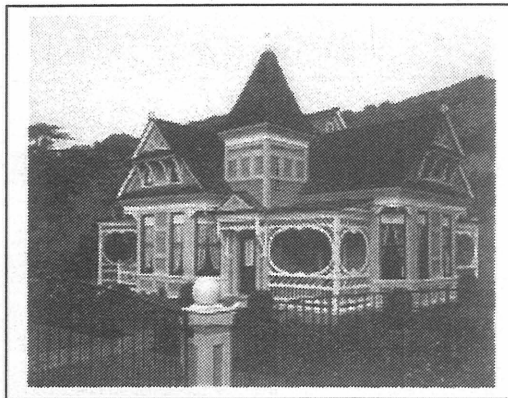
DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EXHIBIT IN PLACE UNTIL JUNE 2003!

The Doctors' House is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM (except for major holidays, and in July), and by reservation for group and school tours.

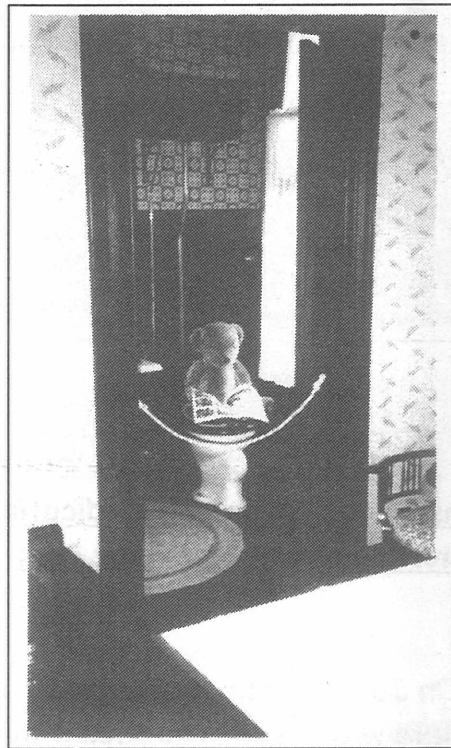
Teddy-Bear Exhibit was a Cuddly and Fuzzy Success

On June 2nd, the Jewel City Doll Club collaborated with us once again and we welcomed 70 appreciative visitors to the Doctors House for our first Teddy Bear Exhibit. Ten contributing bear owners "teddied" the Doctor's House parlor, doctors offices, dining room, living room, and Dotty's blue room. One teddy settled on the downstairs toilet to peruse the TGHS Newsletter. Heartfelt thanks to the Jewel City Doll Club, who have in the past "peopled" the Doctors' House with an extraordinary doll exhibit and also donated Victorian toys to the upstairs playroom.

The Teddy Bear is commonly associated with President Teddy Roosevelt. For those of you "online", log onto "The Teddy Bear Home Page" at www.members.tripod.com/bigbee/ to read about the illustrious history of the Teddy Bear.



photos courtesy of I. Meyer



Study-time" for teddy



The teddy-bear loving Jewel City Doll Club

Welcome New Members!

Betsy and Steve Astor

Emy Ros

Mrs. Dany Carol

Shaye K. Harber

Anthony & Diane Fleitas

Charles & Helke Burchett

Timothy McGrew

Ross & Judy Phares

Dennis Greco

Eric & Kyle Grimes

Michael Ferriso & Tom Brazil

Margaret Buckman

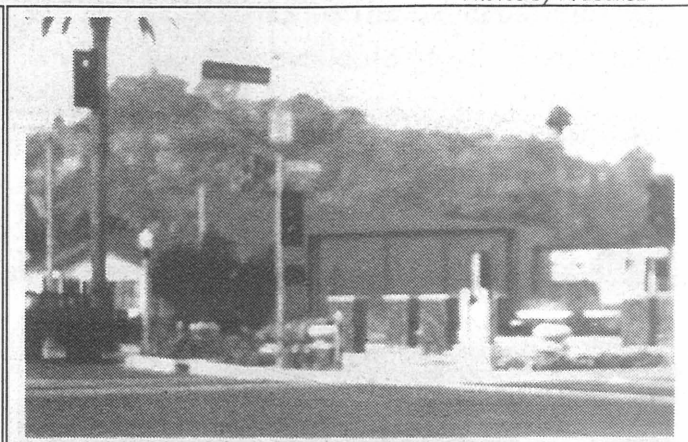
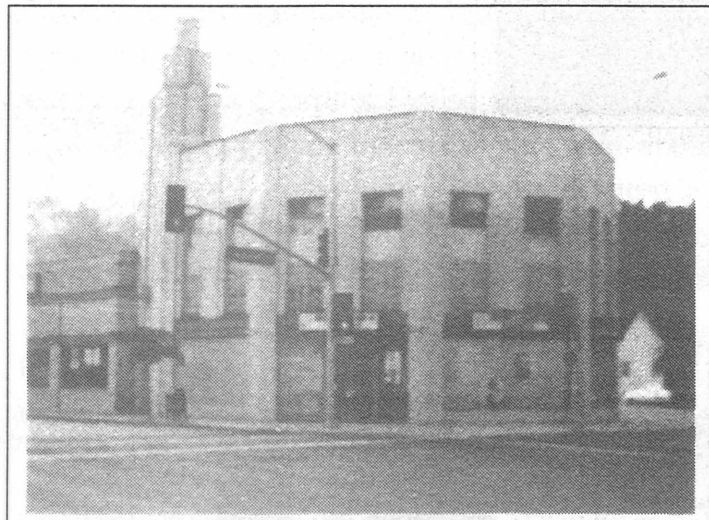
Brian and Diane Davies

Karen Gertoff & K. Luke

Jim and Vera Pacheco

Adams Square Summer A'faire

Photos by R. Ibañez



The new Adams Square Plaza (above, right) is across the street from the Adams Square Building (above, left)-at Adams & Chevy Chase

Adams Square Fest and Dedication on June 15th starts what TGHS hopes will be a historic preservation movement in that area of Glendale

On July 15th the long awaited dedication of the newly revitalized Adams Square -- complete with Deco-reminiscent water fountain, newly planted foliage, and park benches - took place. The Adams Hill area is ripe for a historic districting movement in our opinion, as it is an eclectic mix of people and period architecture. Some of Adams Hill's residents are themselves living icons of local history. Arlene Vidor, TGHS President, commented, "Many locals visited the TGHS booth at the June 15th Fest and expressed a desire to see the neighborhoods superb collection of period homes and commercial structures protected from inappropriate remuddeling.* Interest was also expressed in conducting oral histories for the Adams Hill area."

If you are interested in spreading the historic districting movement to Adams Hill or any other neighborhood in Glendale, contact Helen Sipsas for information. (See related articles on 640 Alta Vista and the Cumberland Heights Historic District project.)

*"Remuddeling" is a word coined to describe remodeling projects that obliterate the defining architectural features of a period building.

Landmarks Update

by Arlene Vidor

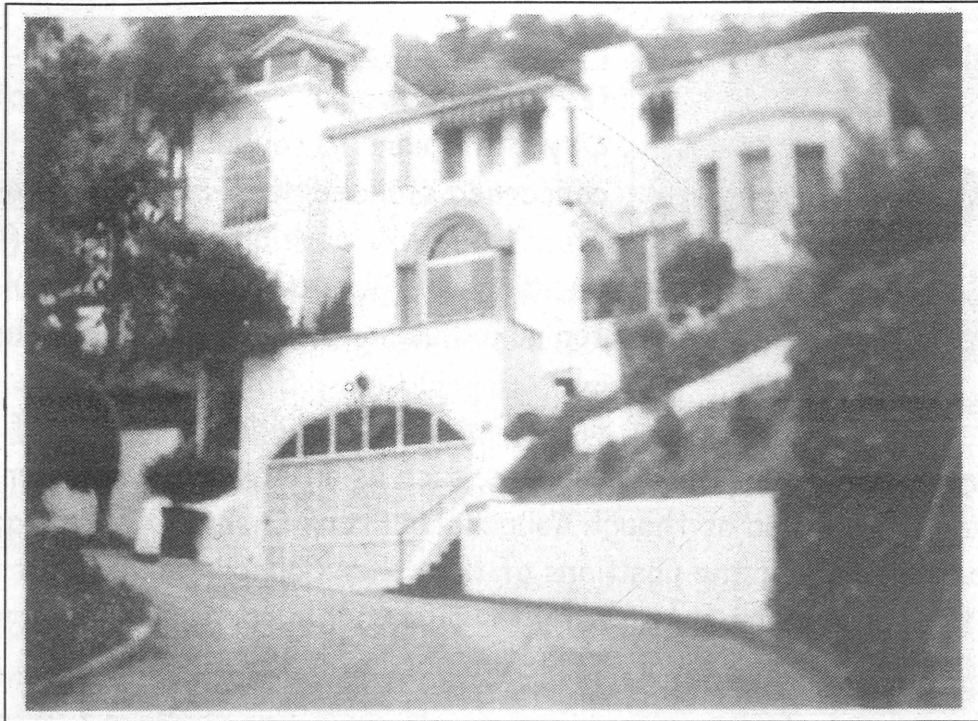


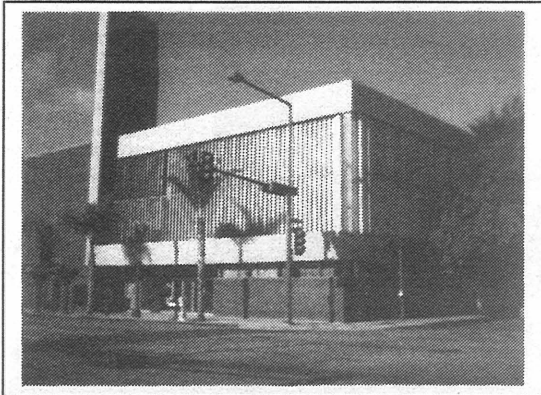
Photo by R. Ibañez

640 Alta Vista

TGHS Members John and Betty Albu own this Adams Hill 1927 Spanish Revival house. They bought it in 1987 because of its castle like battlement lookout, arching windows, and terraced pine and cypress-laden mountain garden. They say it reminded them of their native Hungary. The idea to nominate their house to the Glendale Register came to them after attending the TGHS Public Forum on Preservation of Character Homes last year. The Albu's have added Spanish tiles to the fireplace and stairs, and the fixtures, wood floors, and windows are original. These exemplary architectural details are among those that qualified the house for landmark status.

Preservation Updates

Photo by R. Ibañez



Fidelity Federal Bank Building

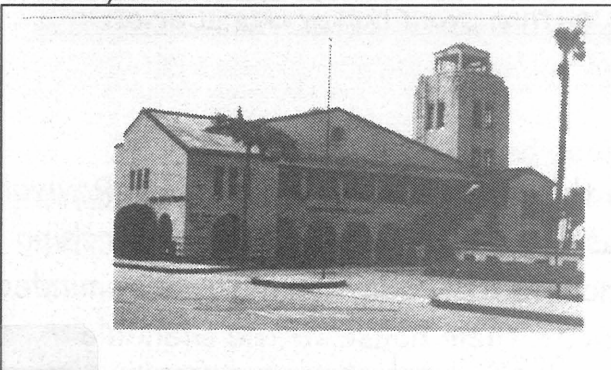
(225 E Broadway)

City staff plans to conduct a tour of the building for concerned stakeholders, including TGHS officers.

The Glendale Redevelopment Agency (GRA) is deciding whether to pursue demolition to make way for mixed use or residential apartments. The Glendale Historical Society advocates for preservation of and adaptive reuse of this unique

building, preferably for cultural purposes, such as an Animation Museum. At a recent GRA meeting it appeared as though Councilman Frank Quintero favors adaptive reuse, but we are unsure about the positions of the other Council Members at this time. Contact City Council members directly to voice your support for preserving the building or contact Arlene Vidor, TGHS, to get involved.

Photo by R. Ibañez



Grand Central Air Terminal Building

(1310 Air Way)

Disney, which owns the site of Southern California's first airport, has promised to rehabilitate the building. However work on the Air Terminal site is not planned for the early phases of their 25-year plan for the "Grand Central Creative Campus". An interim exhibit on

the Air Terminal will be unveiled in August at Glendale's Central Library. This exhibit will be permanently installed on-site once the Air Terminal has been restored. TGHS is monitoring this project and would like to recruit aviation buffs and fans of the terminal to help us advocate for complete and expeditious restoration of the terminal. Please contact Margaret Hammond or Rosemarie Ibañez to lend your support or expertise to this cause.

Local Events

Silver Celebration on the Colorado Street Bridge

On Saturday, July 13th, 2002, Pasadena Heritage will host its annual Celebration on the Colorado Street Bridge from 6:00-11:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10 for members and \$12.50 for non-members, half price for children. For tickets and information contact Pasadena Heritage at (626) 441-6333.

Summer Plays at the Doctors' House

The comedy "The Brothers" by Roman comedy writer, Terence, will be performed as outdoor plays using the façade of the Doctors' House this summer (July 5, 6, 12, 14, 19 and 20). **FREE**. Seating will be available for up to 100 people. Performance time: 7:30PM - 10PM. For information about this and all other events at the Doctors' House, please call Isabelle Meyer at 818-242-4290

Alex Theatre Backstage Tours

The Alex Theatre presents **FREE** backstage tours on select Saturdays, which include information about the history, architecture and technical aspects of the theatre. The remaining tours scheduled for 2002 are: October 12, and December 14. The tour involves much walking and some stair climbing. Tours last about 2 hours (starting at 10am) and space is limited to 30 people per tour (reservations required). To attend an Alex Theatre tour, contact the Alex Theatre Box Office Manager at (818) 243-7700 x216 or at boxoffice@alextheatre.org.

Key Dates

- June 27, 2002 Doctors' House Docent Guild appreciation meeting with Board Members
- July 8, 2002 TGHS Historic Districting presentation to Planning Commission
- July 22, 2002 TGHS General Meeting & Appreciation Event
- Aug 9, 2002 Grand Central Air Terminal Exhibit Opening, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, at the Central Library on Harvard
- *Pending* City Council will vote on an ordinance to amend the "100% consent rule" for historic districting. Watch your mail/email for notification.

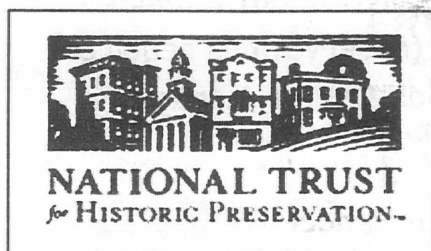
Preservation Events



USC School of Architecture: Summer Program in Historic Preservation

The School of Architecture at the University of Southern California is having its tenth annual summer program of short courses devoted to the conservation of our cultural heritage. This program offers fifteen days of classes with noted experts from Southern California and the United States, which, taken together, are intended to act as a general introduction to the field of historic preservation. In addition to examining the history and philosophy of the preservation movement as it has evolved during the past century, lectures and field trips to historic sites throughout the Los Angeles area will introduce students to a broad range of legal, economic, aesthetic and technical issues associated with the documentation, conservation and interpretation of historic structures, landscapes and communities. Among sites to be visited and studied are the Gamble House, Hollyhock House, Rancho Los Alamitos, Schindler House, and the Getty Conservation Institute. This course has been designed for students, design professionals, community leaders, established preservationists, planners and developers seeking to place their practice within a contemporary context.

For more information or to be placed on their mailing list, contact: Dr. Kenneth Breisch, Director, Programs in Historic Preservation, School of Architecture, Watt Hall 204, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0291. Email: breisch@usc.edu website: www.usc.edu/dept/architecture



National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference

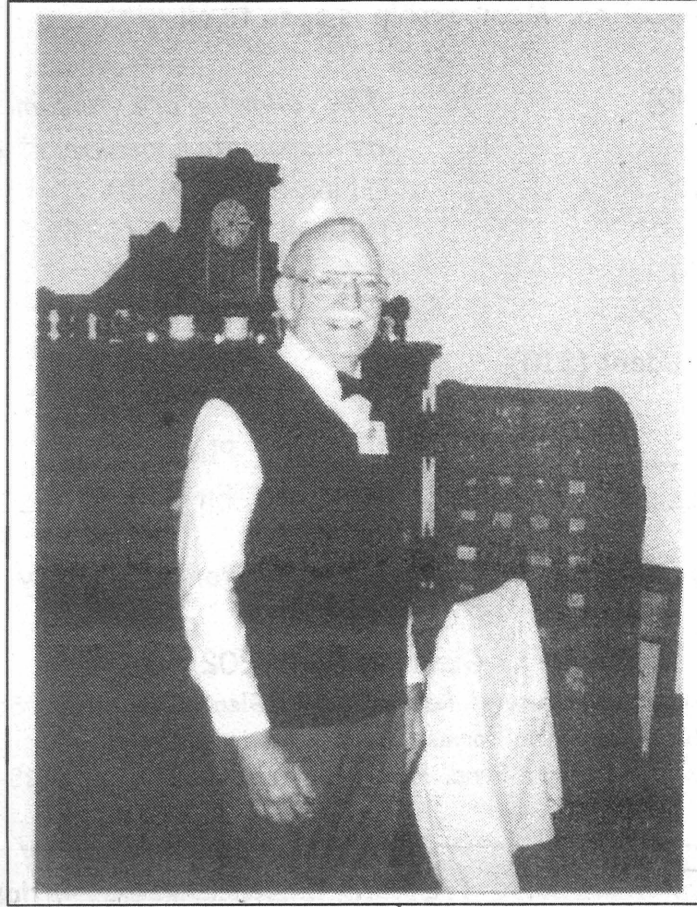
More than 2000 preservationists from across the nation will convene October 8-13, 2002, in Cleveland, Ohio, for the National Preservation Conference, the premier preservation educational gathering in the United States. Participants will include community and neighborhood leaders, public officials, affordable housing practitioners, architects, planners, historic site managers, developers, downtown revitalization specialists and other grassroots activists.

The theme of National Preservation Conference 2002, *Cities, Suburbs and Countryside*, focuses on preservation-based revitalization of downtowns, inner-city neighborhoods, and older suburbs, as well as proactive strategies to protect and rejuvenate surrounding countryside. Selected sessions will focus on cutting-edge strategies and models drawn from across the country. Field sessions will explore the sophisticated work being done in the Cleveland area. Attention will also be focused on broader strategies, such as Smart Growth models, that bring together the interests of cities, suburbs and countryside to address issues affecting them all.

The historic preservation story in Cleveland starts with the wrecking ball and ends with some of the best preservation-based housing, theater development, and adaptive use projects in the country.

For more information: www.nationaltrust.org; conference@nthp.org; National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202)588-6100 or (800)944-6847; (202)588-6472 (fax)

In Memorium - Dr. Bob Newcomb



*Dr. Newcomb portrayed "The Doctor" at the Doctors' House
Photo courtesy of I. Meyer*

Dr. Robert Newcomb, a long time TGHS Officer and Board Member - and a legendary Doctors' House preservationist and docent, died of cancer on April 29, 2002. Dr. Newcomb was "The Doctor" on the Doctors House tour over many years, a role he relished. He also organized a very special series of monthly lectures on local lore and history for TGHS' Members.

Many people do not know that after graduating from Stanford and taking a PhD in geography at UCLA, "Dr. Bob" served in US Naval Reserve Air Intelligence as a Lt. Commander. He and his late wife, Karen Hale Newcomb, also enjoyed a 12-year stint living in Denmark. Everyone he came in contact with remembers Dr. Newcomb as a classic gentleman and scholar who has always been thoughtful, generous, beloved and admired. We will miss him so very much.

"Dr. Bob" was extremely generous to The Glendale Historical Society Endowment Fund in life as in death. This fund is administered by The Glendale Community Foundation. If you would like to celebrate Dr. Newcomb's life-long devotion to the Society by donating to TGHS in his memory, please see the back page of this newsletter to join or donate in his memory. Alternatively, contact The Glendale Community Foundation to make a memorial contribution to the TGHS Endowment Fund by contacting TGCF at 818-241-8040 or at gcfndn@earthlink.net.

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.

- Jewel City Patron (\$500)
- Verdugo Patron (\$250)
- Tropico Patron (\$100)
- Sustaining (\$50)
- Family/Dual (\$30)
- Individual (\$20)
- Individual Senior or Student (\$10)

The following are welcome to support TGHS as "associated members" without voting rights:

- Non-Profit (\$25)
- Small Business (\$35)
- Corporate (\$100)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Email _____

Please return this form to: The Glendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 4173
Glendale, CA 91202

Help us carry Glendale's past into the future! Remember The Glendale Historical Society in your estate plans. Planned giving to TGHS can take many forms: cash, securities, historically significant real estate, or other avenues held in the TGHS Endowment Fund. Please contact Don Ramirez at 818-956-0596 for more information.

P.O. Box 4173
Glendale, CA 91202

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