
The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage Winter 2003



Tom Miller presents a check from the Glendale Community Foundation to Arlene Vidor, president of the Glendale Historical Society, at the gazebo.

ings to be used to help TGHS accomplish its mission in the community. GCF invests the donations, insures that the principle amount is not touched and gives the disburse the earned interest to TGHS annually, providing a permanent source of income for programs and activities. The Society's Endowment Fund has grown in principle amount to over \$33,000 thanks to several generous individuals. This principle has generated approximately \$3,600 in interest since 1994, which averages about \$400 per year. TGHS has used this income to pay many postal and mailing expenses.

How can you contribute to the Endowment Fund?

A fully tax-deductible cash gift can be made to the Fund. Other excellent ways to donate are

ENDOWMENT continued on page 2

Insurance for the Society's future

Here's the scoop about The Glendale Historical Society Endowment Fund at the Glendale Community Foundation

By Tom Miller, Director
Glendale Community Foundation

WHEN THE LATE Richard Montgomery co-founded The Glendale Historical Society years ago, he understood the value of our city's history and architectural legacy. Keeping this heritage alive for current and future generations was his vision.

As the Society continues to grow in size and influence there is also increased competition for non-

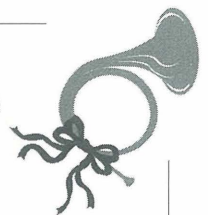
profit funding. For that reason, Mr. Montgomery established a TGHS Endowment Fund within The Glendale Community Foundation (GCF), in honor of his wife, Natalie.

What is an Endowment Fund?

In general, it is an invested pool of money with the interest earned used for a certain charitable purpose. The Natalie Montgomery Glendale Historical Society Endowment Fund accepts donations from people who want the fund's earn-

Doctors House Museum

Brand Park
1601 West Mountain Avenue
Glendale, California



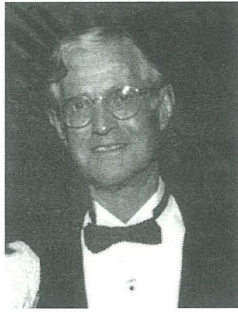
A Candlelight Tour

Saturdays
December 13 and 20, 2003
Continuous tours.
No reservations needed.

Bake Sale and Ornament Sale

Admission: \$1.00 per person
For information (818) 242-4290

appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance policies and even real estate.



Dick Montgomery

As a donor, you stand to receive a full income-tax deduction as well as offset capital gains or estate taxes by making a gift of assets that have grown in value over time.

The TGHS Endowment was started with an appreciated bond fund. At the time, Dick Montgomery said to me, "I bought the bond fund many years ago and figured that when it doubled in size, I would donate it and take the tax deduction for the doubled value."

Consider leaving a legacy to the Society in your will.

Have you thought about what will happen to the base of charitable support when you're gone? TGHS is also participating in the Leave A Legacy program, which includes several organizations working in partnership with the GCF.

Through "Leave A Legacy" several hundred non-profit organizations, financial and estate planning firms, law firms, business and government leaders have joined together to support the ease and benefit of charitable bequests through wills and estate plans.

Some startling facts:

- Although 75 percent of Americans contribute annually to charity, only 3% plan ahead and leave a charitable bequest at death.

- By the beginning of this century it is anticipated that 11 to 12 trillion dollars will be passed on from the estates of World War II-generation Americans.

- Bequests currently account for only 6.8% of total giving nationwide.

- 83% of our wealthiest citizens (those with estates in excess of \$600,000) leave nothing to charity when they die.

Naming a non-profit organization such as The Glendale Historical Society as a beneficiary in your will is easy to do and mutually beneficial.



Tom Miller, the author of this article, has been executive director of the Glendale Community Foundation for 14 years.

For more information about donating to the

Society via the Endowment Fund or Leave a Legacy Campaign, contact Tom Miller at the Glendale Community Foundation.

(818) 241-8040.

We also recommend that you talk to your financial planner, attorney, or accountant for information on planned giving and estate planning.

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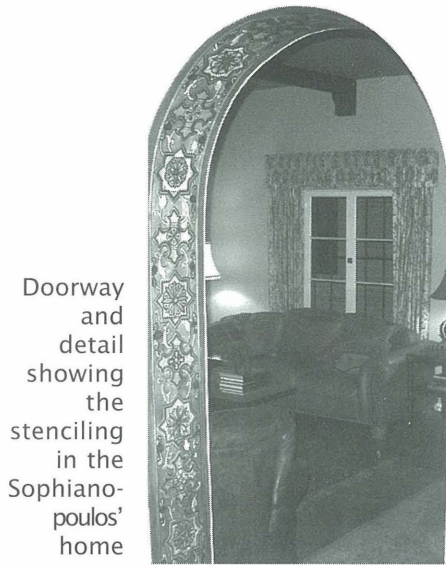
Visit us on the web at:
www.glendalehistorical.org

The Glendale Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter is the official publication of the Society

What does Preservation Really Mean?

A Personal View

by Al Sophianopoulos



Doorway and detail showing the stenciling in the Sophianopoulos' home



I CAN THINK of no better way to find out what your house might have looked like when it was built than checking out other houses in the neighborhood.

Most realtors welcome neighbors to open houses. Just say, "I'm a curious neighbor." Then check out what you think might be original to the house—like bathroom and kitchen fixtures, and stenciling on beams.

I ALSO LIKE TO VISIT period houses. For example, we got some great ideas for murals and decorative hand painting at the Adamson House in Malibu. For any of you unfamiliar with the Adamson House, the woman who owned Malbu Potteries built it for her daughter, and it's breathtaking. For \$2.00, you'll get a million dollars worth of ideas. (Check out www.adamsonhouse.org for more info.) We got great ideas for adding detail through hand painting and stenciling.

But it was at an open house that I was suddenly confronted with a question that hits all of us who own old houses: Authenticity vs. Owner's Imprint.

IT ALL STARTED WHEN I met Arturo Ferrel. Arturo is, according to local myth, *the magnesite man*. I got his name at an open house with an absolutely gorgeous magnesite entry hall that looked just like polished marble. I wanted Arturo to make my magnesite entry hall look like polished marble, too.

But Arturo had ideas of his own. According to Arturo, our painting inspired by the Adamson house was too perfect. The lines were too clean. Then, Arturo said that we shouldn't have a polished marble look in our entry hall because that wasn't the way it had been painted originally. We should restore it to its original design.

THEN IT HIT ME: Was I obliged to restore my house to its original condition? How much leeway did I have for my own taste?

Since my house is on Glendale's Historic Register, this question hit

me especially hard. I suddenly felt like I'd spent all night studying the wrong chapter before an exam.

Was our too-perfect mural letting down the historic preservation movement? Should I have hired some kind of historic painting consultant? Should I have a professional, certified design team follow me every step of the way through choosing paint colors to fabrics and antiques?

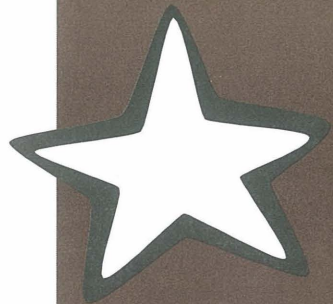
There are serious preservationist types, who will only use museum-documented paint and wallpaper, who spend hundreds of thousands of dollars matching molding, roof tiles, and finishes.

Then there are the types who use traditional architecture as a background for eclecticism, who fill mahogany bookshelves with Charlie's Angels lunchboxes and Barbie dolls, who strategically place Eames furniture and plexiglass armchairs around Gothic fireplaces.

MY OWN SENSIBILITY falls somewhere in between. I like tradition, and I respect it. But I like to be able to do put my own stamp on things. I think our too-perfect painting looks great. But although I'm coming around to the idea of restoring our magnesite entry to its original look, I can't get that polished marble out of my head.

I think that the responsibility of owning an old home is more about spirit than about authenticity. If the next person who owns my house is a strict traditionalist, then let them mess up the murals a little. As long as the bones remain untouched, I say, let your own personality shine.

Because we're not just talking about a house. We're talking about a *home*. And that, more than anything, is what we're really trying to preserve.



Annual

Awards

Ceremony

spotlights

dedicated

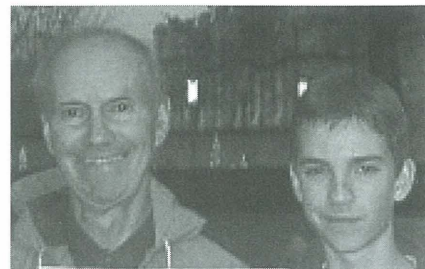
preservationists



THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS SHOW

SCOTT & CHRISTIAN DRAPER Docents The Doctors House Museum

Scott Draper has been a dedicated docent giving tours to groups of school children for the last three years. His 16-year-old son, Christian, who first came to the house with a school group often joins him.



CHRIS NICHOLS Government in Glendale, Tour of Civic Center Modernism

Chris, a leading member of The Los Angeles Conservancy Modern Committee, produced and conducted this tour of Glendale's civic corridor two years in a row. Last year's tour was cooperatively sponsored by The Glendale Historical Society and the LA Conservancy's Modern Committee. The tour has been so well received that it may now become a regular event in Glendale. As a result of this tour, the Glendale civic corridor is now famous for its innovative collection of modernist structures.



GERRI AND ART CRAGNOTTI Ongoing volunteerism in the historic district initiative

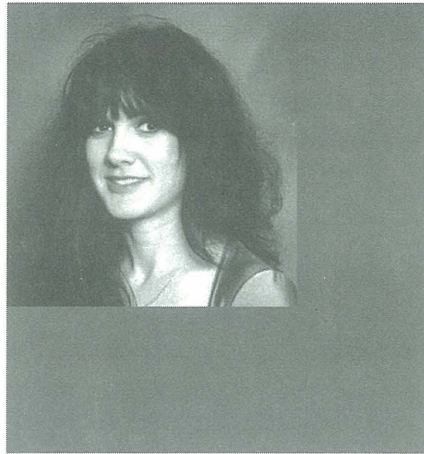
Gerri and Art have been extremely involved in TGHS through their efforts in the restoration and sale of character homes in the Northwest Glendale area. Gerri started the current historic district initiative by notifying the Board of TGHS that Glendale's period residential architecture was in danger of disappearance do to demolition and inappropriate remodeling. Gerri and Art have volunteered assistance at many Historic District events of late, including hosting a party for Cumberland Heights. Gerri has had perfect attendance at all public hearings at which the historic district ordinance was considered.



VED EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION TO OUR GOALS

JULIET ARROYO **Historic District** **Overlay Zone Ordinance**

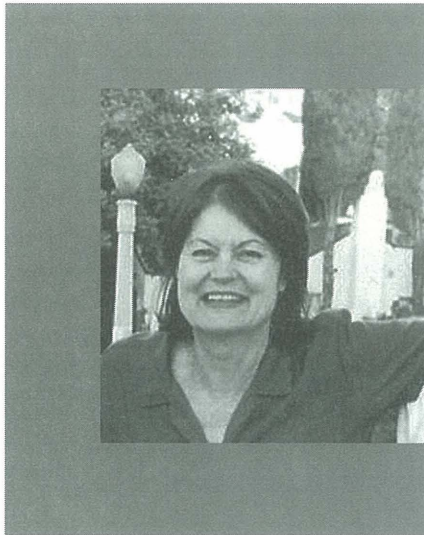
Juliet, a City of Glendale Planner, worked tirelessly with the community to craft our Historic District Overlay Zone Ordinance. Juliet has been a champion of historic preservation in the City staff for 3 and a half years and keeps watch over many buildings that are unprotected. Most recently she successfully secured a State grant to survey Cumberland Heights.



KATHY PEARSON **Director, Action/** **Reaction Theatre** **Company**



Kathy has two years in a row, produced, directed, and acted in theatrical productions using the historic Doctors' House as a scenic backdrop. The "theatre in the park" has attracted hundreds to one of Glendale's most unique cultural events.

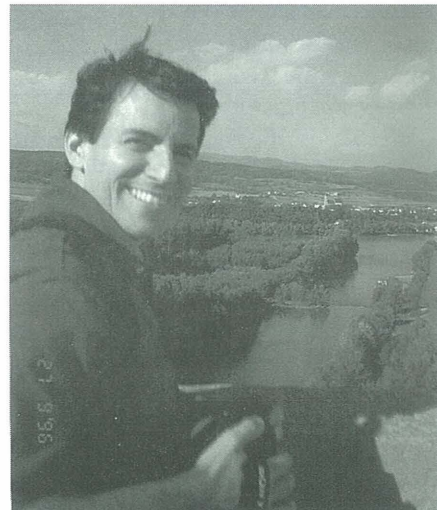
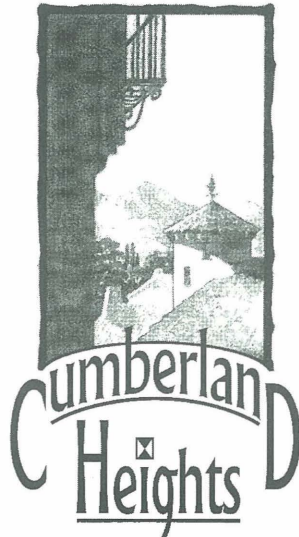


UTE BAUM **Preservation advocacy,** **Adams Hill and** **Adams Square**

During the Historic District Overlay Zone (HDOZ) initiative, Ute consistently telephoned and sent leaflets to the entire community to ensure that Adams Hill came on very strongly in support of the HDOZ ordinance adoption. He is one of the founding members of The Friends of Historic Adams Square and has been a tireless advocate for preservation of the Adams Square Building, The Streamline Moderne gas station and other historic structures in the Adams Hill area.

DENNIS GRECO **Cumberland Heights logo**

Dennis is a resident homeowner in Cumberland Heights and an active member of the historic district committee. As a professional artist, Dennis's talents came into play when he designed a logo for the pending Cumberland Heights historic district. The logo captures the architectural elegance of Cumberland's vast collection of Spanish Colonial Revival homes.





A photo etching of the Shoseian Tea House in Brand Park made by artist Julie Bagish, president of the Friends of the Teahouse.

about to work with the parks and recreation department to repair damage to the house and to use it as a teaching venue for the world of Tea. In 2002, the Friends group celebrated the revival of the property as a working tea house by performing both Japanese and Korean tea ceremonies for the public.

Combined Victorian and Japanese tea ceremonies coming up

The Friends of Shoseian are brewing up even more events and are excited about the prospect of collaborating with the Doctors House for a unique undertaking: a combined Victorian Tea and a Japanese Tea Ceremony. That we believe, will be a first.

Stop by the serene grounds of the teahouse and garden some time!

Glendale's newest and youngest historic landmark The Shoseian Tea House and Gardens in Brand Park

ON SEPTEMBER 30, the Glendale City Council voted to include The Shoseian Tea House and Garden in The Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

The teahouse was designed and built in 1974 by Hayahiko Takase, who also designed the New Otani Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. It was given its name by Iemoto, a 15th generation Grand Tea Master of the renowned Urasenke Tea School in Kyoto, Japan. Shoseian means "Whispering Pine Teahouse." The adjacent Japanese Garden, whose name is "Friendship Garden," and koi pond are now Glendale's only intact garden space formally designated as a historic landmark.

Teahouse celebrates friendship between two cities

More than thirty years ago, the idea for The Tea House and Garden was conceived by an enterprising group of Glendaleans, several of whom

were immigrants from the Japanese city, Higashi-Osaka. Their idea was to establish a link between their hometown and their new home, Glendale. The original "Sister Committee" consisted of members living in both cities and together they raised all of the funds required to build the teahouse and garden as a celebration of the friendship between Japan and America that arose out of the ashes of World War II. The group donated the entire property to the City of Glendale Parks and Recreation department upon completion.

Teahouse is now a teaching site for the world of Tea

In 2001, Julie Bagish, a tea teacher and ceramic artist was visiting the Brand Library and fell in love with the authentic beauty of the tea house at first sight. She teamed up with Michiko Gingery, one of the founding members of the Sister City group, to form "The Friends of Shoseian Tea House." They set

The Shoseian Teahouse is located in Brand

Park and is open to the public from 10am to 4pm Monday through Thursday or by special appointment, every third Sunday of each month.

For scheduling or information on the Friends of Shoseian group, contact Julie Bagish (323) 666-3898

The Los Angeles Conservancy's Preservation Report Card:

by Arlene Vidor

Glendale praised for "making strides"but we still have a ways to go

The LA Conservancy rolled out its "Preservation Report Card" at a Preservation Summit at the Skirball Cultural Center in West Los Angeles recently. Of the 89 Los Angeles municipalities, fourteen cities out of 89 rated an A or B grade and Glendale was one of them, with a "B". Is that a good grade? Well, its better than we used to be.

Glendale probably would have rated "D" grade in years past. We were given a good grade because we enacted a Historic District ordinance which allows historic rezoning based on a majority consensus in the neighborhood, rather than the ultra-restrictive 100%. We were also cited for implementing a discretionary Demolition Ordinance. Ken Bernstein, the

Conservancy's Director of Preservation referred to Glendale as a "rising star" in Southern California.

Although community advocacy was not one of the criteria for rating cities (only local government rules and policies factored in), The Glendale Historical Society's tremendous advocacy efforts were complimented as being instrumental in getting us to where we are today.

Mr. Bernstein indicated that the region's eyes are on Glendale to see if we make good on our intentions to form historic districts. Municipalities with lots of regulations that have no "teeth" came under severe criticism and received poor grades. The entire report, including every city's grade, can be found at www.laconservancy.org.

Why Glendale rated a "B" grade

- We are a Certified Local Government
- We have a usable Historic District Ordinance
- We have a Demolition Ordinance
- We have a Historic Preservation Commission
- We have a local registry for individual landmarks
- We have a Mills Act tax incentive program

Why Glendale did not rate an "A"

- We have no citywide historic survey
- We have no historic districts
- We require owner consent to list a local landmark
- We allow delisting of local landmarks



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Join The Glendale Historical Society and Support Historic Preservation in Our Community

THE SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT, tax exempt organization and we encourage you to join and volunteer. Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to The Glendale Historical Society, PO Box 4173, Glendale CA 91202

Jewel City Patron (\$500) Verdugo Patron \$(250) Tropico Patron (\$100) Sustaining (\$50) Family/Dual (\$30) Individual (\$20) Individual Senior or Student (10)	Organizational Membership (No voting rights) Non-Profit (\$25) Small Business (\$35) Corporate (\$100)
--	---

Name _____ Phone _____
 Street Address _____
 City/Zip _____ Email Address _____

AREAS OF INTEREST:

Preservation	Historic Districts	Event Planning
Fundraising	Outreach	Newsletter
Doctors House docent	Research Glendale history	

Look What's Coming in 2004

January 29

*Artists of the Glendale Area:
100 Years of Inspiration*
Speaker: Linda Strack
the owner of Whites Gallery
Location: Brand Library

February

To be Announced

March

Glendale Architecture:
Robert Winter, author of
*An Architectural Guide
to Los Angeles*
Talk and slide presentation

April

General Membership Meeting
in cooperation with
The Historical Society of
Crescenta Valley:
Stuart Byles presents:
"What architecture style is
your house and what should
be preserved?"

May

Workshop:
How to Get Your Property
Landmarked and the
Mills Act Incentive

Historic Preservation Month

History Festival in Brand Park

Schools Participate in
Glendale History

June

Historic Tour:
Glendale Top to Bottom

November December

Planned tour of historic homes

Welcome New* and Renewing Members

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Arlene Vidor

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Janet Greenlin*
Tim McGrew & Tony Ligammari

TROPICO PATRON (\$100)

Sean Bersell & Heather Norris*
Art & Gerri Cragnotti
Michael & Carole Dougherty
Steve Hales
Craig & Tammi Relyea*
Serina Rockwell*
William Shepherd

CORPORATE (\$100)

Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk*
(Rossmoyne Properties, Inc.)

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Howard D. Anderson
Jane Brown & Gary Hart*
Mr. & Mrs. John Clauss
Brian J. Davies
Leonard DeGrassi
Dorothy Knisely
Eileen M. Manus
Beatrice Penniall
Steven A. Preston & Janet Whaley
Ruth Priest
Al Sophianopoulos*
Julie Dart Swiatek*
William & Leann Warner
Chris Zastrow*

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Crescenta Valley*
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Michael Sharp
Marian Simpson
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Lucy Wang & Tom Halpern*
Helen & Bob Wrede
Lucy Yarick

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