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# The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage

Spring 2008

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## TGHS Initiates a Speakers Bureau

**D**o you know a community group looking for speakers for a breakfast, lunch or evening meeting? Would you enjoy learning more about historical preservation and quality architecture and design in Glendale?

TGHS has assembled a list of speakers that we are providing to Glendale community groups. Some of the topics include:

- the impact of windows and window replacement
- the importance of architectural details
- historic districting
- saving the Doctors House
- the Doctors House today
- Tropico, yesterday and today
- demolition of iconic buildings
- civic district buildings over the decades
- mid-century modernism
- art glass
- heritage trees, heritage landscape
- water-wise landscape
- how to list a historic building on the City Register
- Glendale in the Rose Parade
- cutting edge contemporary architecture
- TGHS's activities and mission

If you want more information about our Speakers Bureau, contact Elaine Wilkerson at [wilkere@aol.com](mailto:wilkere@aol.com) or 818-548-4266 or visit our website at [www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org)

## Mark Your Calendar

Details will be mailed to members; also check [www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org) for updated information.

### March 27

*Glendale Modern: Expect the Unexpected*  
Slide Presentation by Jay Platt  
Glendale Historic Preservation Planner  
First United Methodist Church  
on Broadway

"To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect."  
Oscar Wilde

7:00 pm      Tour of the church

7:30 pm      Slide presentation

### May 18

Garden Tour  
Brand Library (beginning point)

10:30-4:00      Self-guided tour

4:00-5:30      Raffle and presentation at  
Brand Library

**STAY TUNED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF FUTURE PROGRAMS,  
including our famous fall home tour.**

# President's Message

Lately, there's been a huge amount of community attention paid to the make-up and proceedings of Glendale's two Design Review Boards. I couldn't agree more that the capabilities and outlook of the DRB members and their decision-making methods are of utmost importance to our city. In this newsletter, we introduce you personally to the current members of the Historic Preservation Commission, which is also a very important Council-appointed board. They can influence the city's look and feel as well as its policies and ordinances in ways that profoundly impact Glendale's future.

Every city matter that involves some preservation-related issue—or even potential issue—is heard by HPC and it is this body that makes recommendations to City Council about how it should or should not vote on these matters. Glendale's regulations state that City Council appoints members to HPC based on a “demonstration of interest, competence, and knowledge in historic preservation”...“who have business dealings in a related field.”

We hope all of you take an active interest in the dealings of HPC, go to meetings, write in, and watch the meetings on TV. HPC's choices can impact the difference between a bleak and rootless Glendale and a culturally enriched Glendale. And if you have the qualifications, by all means, apply for a position on HPC. Community involvement makes all the difference.

  
**Arlene Vidor**  
March 2008

## The Glendale Historical Society Officers & Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Arlene Vidor  
avidor@earthlink.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

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### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Marcia Hanford

### DOCTORS HOUSE CURATOR

Isabelle Meyer

### BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Hammond  
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Marcia Hanford  
John LoCascio  
Isabelle Meyer  
Arlene Vidor  
Elaine Wilkerson

Write us at:

TGHS

Post Office Box 4173  
Glendale CA 91202

Visit us on the web at:

[www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org)

The Glendale Historical Society



Glendale Historical Society Vice President John LoCascio explains the Grandview Library architecture to tour attendees. PHOTO by Arlene Vidor.

## TGHS leads centennial tour to celebrate Glendale public libraries' 100 years of service

Last November 10, in celebration of its centennial, the Glendale Public Library partnered with TGHS to sponsor a tour of three of our city's most historic and architecturally distinct library buildings.

The tour began at the Central Library, the hub of the Library system. Completed in 1973, the building was designed by Welton Becket & Associates, the prominent architectural firm responsible for many of the most famous and iconic buildings in Los Angeles, including the Music Center, the Capitol Records building and the Cinerama Dome.

With its exposed concrete structure, blocky massing and angular geometry, the Central Library is an excellent example of the late-20th century offshoot of Modernism known as Brutalism (from the French *beton brut*, "raw concrete"). Tour participants visited the Special Collections room, the dramatic two-story main reading room, the children's room and the auditorium before boarding the bus that would take them to their next stop, the Grandview branch library.

Designed by Glendale architect Graham Latta and completed in October of 1963, Grandview Library is a fine and remarkably intact example of mid-20th century American civic architecture. Its horizontal bands of windows, overhanging flat roof and decorative brickwork are classic features of late International-style Modernism. The open interior features a bright and spacious reading room with original built-in display shelves and a separate children's section. The tour also included

the "working" parts of the Library, not open to the public.

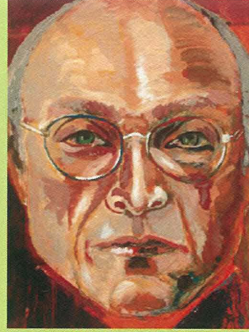
The tour's last stop was at El Miradero ("The Lookout Point") originally the home of Leslie Coombs Brand, the "Father of Glendale", and his wife Mary Louise, and now the crown jewel of the Brand Library and Art Gallery. The house was designed in 1904 by Brand's brother-in-law, Nathaniel Dryden, in an eclectic mix of architectural styles and elements. The tour highlighted the strong Hispano-Moorish influence of the exterior, with its pointed arches and small, minaret-like towers; the California Mission revival-style floor plan, with the rooms wrapped around a central patio; and the typical Victorian detailing of the interior finishes. The tour concluded with a visit to the art galleries added in 1969.

# 100

**Glendale Public Library  
Centennial  
1907 - 2007**



Stephanie Landregan



Ruben Amirian  
Self portrait



Vic Mardian



Siranoush Rousian

# Meet Glendale's Historic Preservation Commissioners

by Arlene Vidor

Meet some very important folks you may not know—the members of Glendale's Historic Preservation Commission. They make recommendations to City Council on how it should vote on a number of issues including naming of buildings to the Glendale Historic Register and a variety of policies and regulations that impact the city's approach to preservation.

They also approve or disapprove alterations to existing landmarks, including properties in our historic districts—and we anticipate having those very soon. They also at times give advice to the Design Review Boards on how modifications to older structures should be handled and whether or not demolition is appropriate. These individuals are in effect gatekeepers of our historic fabric.

HPC meetings are televised live on the fourth Monday of every month at 2:00 pm. They are held in the Municipal Services Building, Hearing Room 105 and public participation is encouraged or you can watch live on GTV6 or streaming online. Televised replays continue throughout the month. To find out more about the topics visit "Agendas and Minutes" on the city website and also visit <http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/gtv6/default.asp> for the broadcast schedule.

Photo of George Adrian unavailable at press time.

*I posed a few questions to the five Historic Preservation Commissioners so we could get to know them better and find out what inspires them. Here are their responses. Each of the commissioners is on a first term and may be appointed to a second term, at the behest of City Council.*

## QUESTION #1: TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF—YOUR PROFESSION AND INTERESTS.

**George Adrian:** I am a licensed architect. I also enjoy music, and have a passion for golf.

**Ruben Amirian:** I'm an architect and did graduate work in city and regional planning.

I am also a painter of abstract art and spend a lot of time in my home studio. I've had several solo shows.

**Stephanie Landregan:** I am on my second career as a licensed landscape architect, and was previously a Planner for the City of Santa Monica and also a museum designer.

**Vic Mardian:** I am a 34 year resident of Glendale. I have a bachelor's degree in art and architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI ARC). In addition, I have 22 years of experience in design, planning, and construction.

**Siranoush Rousian:** I am a Senior Project Manager for Wells Fargo's new and remodeled office spaces. My territory ranges from Ventura to San Diego.

**QUESTION #2: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WANT TO BE ON HPC?**

**George Adrian:** A commitment to do what I can, to preserve significant architecture from past years by our country's revered architects. This includes architecture of real beauty, meeting a higher standard, which for many reasons, can never be duplicated again.

**Ruben Amirian:** I love contextual architecture—to design buildings within the surrounding environment to achieve a harmonious neighborhood. The environment, not just individual buildings, is important to me.

**Stephanie Landregan:** Preservation is a holistic endeavor, it isn't just about saving a porch or a doorway. It's the neighborhood and context. I felt my expertise would serve that ideal well.

**Vic Mardian:** The history of Glendale and the beautiful gems of architecture the city possesses are what inspire me. I aspire to raise public awareness for the protection and preservation of such architecture.

**Siranoush Rousian:** To assist in saving the city's historical architecture as much as possible.

**QUESTION #3: HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE STATE OF PRESERVATION IN GLENDALE? FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT WORKS WELL AND WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?**

**George Adrian:** It is making good, but slow progress. We need a stronger preservation presence within the City's agencies (i.e. Planning Dept., Redevelopment Agency & Design Review Board).

**Ruben Amirian:** Things have improved; however, we need more outreach and education to all the citizens.

**Stephanie Landregan:** Things are improving every day; people are starting to appreciate our architectural heritage. Glendale is a diverse city and we need broader education of the entire citizenry to appreciate our architectural heritage.

**Vic Mardian:** It's a work in progress. I believe that the community and the Historical Society participation in our neighborhoods is making a difference and working well towards promoting preservation. Yet, we still need to improve the Design Review Exemptions and Demolition processes. We also need to include public

education on preserving our historic neighborhoods' character.

**Siranoush Rousian:** My feeling has been that HPC has added value or sometimes a confirmation on the reports that are prepared by our staff. This has enabled the audience to accept some of the issues much easier.

**QUESTION #4: WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT ON HPC THUS FAR?**

**George Adrian:** I hope I have offered some "credibility." Through my discussions with my fellow board members, I like to think, I have been a good catalyst . . . making quality comments and suggestions that will continue to enforce the public's perception of the HPC.

**Ruben Amirian:** I'm proud of recommending the adoption of the historic district applicants. I hope they come through and I hope I can be helpful in creating more historic districts in Glendale.

**Vic Mardian:** I'm proud of having the opportunity to be involved in passage of the Historic Districts Design Guidelines. The city received awards on these guidelines and on how the community came together to achieve a common goal, that is, to preserve our architectural history and integrity.

**Stephanie Landregan:** Although I was not on HPC at the start, I am very proud to have been involved in the historic districting guidelines and the passage of the new ordinance.

**Siranoush Rousian:** I'm proud of the number of residences we have added to the Glendale Register.



**Glendale**  
**GARDEN TOUR**  
Sunday May 18, 2008  
10:30 am - 4:00 pm  
\$25 in advance  
\$30 at the door  
includes 12 gardens

The poster features a background of purple flowers and a yellow flower on the right side. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Brand Park Personifies

This is the second in a three part series, spotlighting Glendale's historic

**F**ortunately for us, Leslie Coombs Brand and his wife Mary Louise deeded their 1,000 acre property to the citizens of Glendale. Upon Mrs Brand's death in 1945, the Brand estate was bequeathed to the public and became Brand Park. Leslie Brand's only condition for this bequest was that the couple's Moorish castle residence, El Miradero, be converted into a public library.

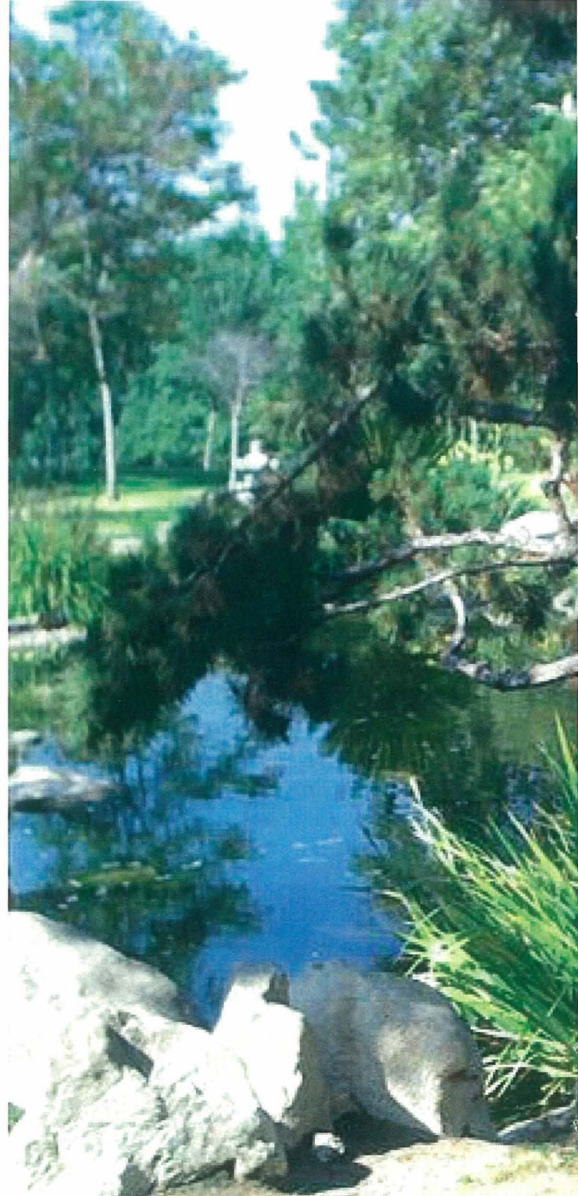
The 31-acre public park sitting nestled below the Verdugo Mountains is a serene respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. In addition to a baseball diamond, picnic areas, and access to great hiking in the Verdugos, the park has afforded enough room to be home to no less than four prominent landmarks - plus one hidden in back of the park.

**THE 5,000 SQUARE FOOT EL MIRADERO** (roughly translated means "high vantage point") is now the Brand Library & Art Center, whose design was inspired by Mr. Brand's admiration of the Indian Pavilion at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In 1969 a modernist addition, complementing the Moorish features of the castle, was added for an art gallery, performing arts venue, and art studios.

**THE QUEEN ANNE-EASTLAKE STYLE VICTORIAN DOCTORS HOUSE** sat regally on the northwest corner of Wilson and Belmont for 92 years. At 921 Wilson it was residence and office for a succession of four of Glendale's prominent early physicians. When the redevelopment of residential central Glendale began in earnest, the Glendale Historical Society saved the beloved house by literally cutting it in half, escorting it on foot from its original home to Brand Park on a balmy night in 1980. It was then restored and the gazebo was added. The house, under the direction of Isabelle Meyer, is now fully restored and furnished in the period. The seam showing where the two halves of the house were "sewn" back together can be viewed on the wooden floor, and the amazing story of how the house was saved from the wrecking ball can be learned on tours offered every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm.

**THE SHOSEIAN WHISPERING PINE TEAHOUSE AND FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** is Glendale's youngest registered cultural landmark, built in 1974.

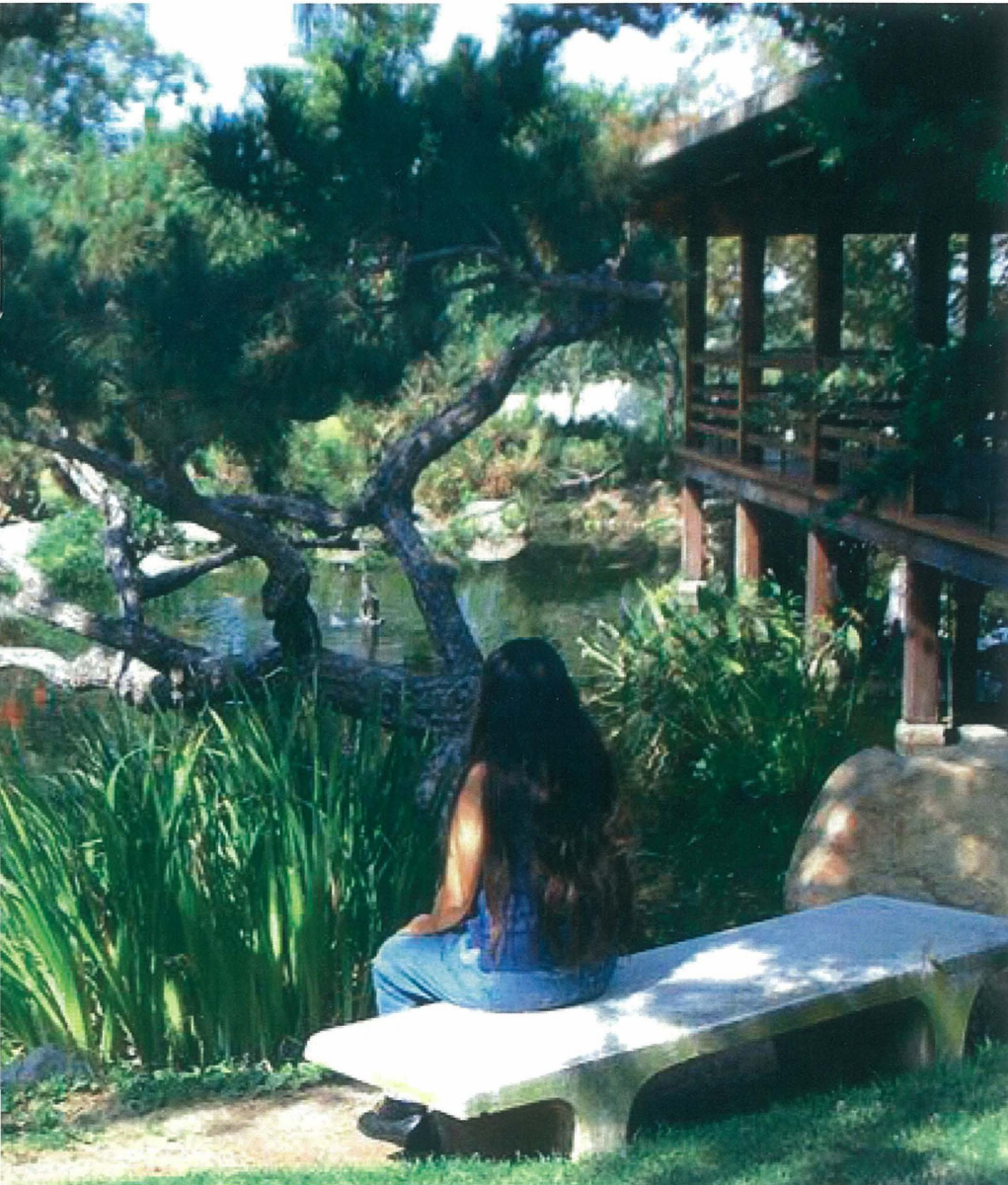
The Sister City Committees of Glendale and Higashi-Osaka, Japan raised the funds and built the teahouse and garden as a gesture of goodwill, peace and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. The building was designed by Hayahiko Takase who also designed the New Otani Hotel. The teahouse was



# Glendale's History

parks.

by Arlene Vidor



ABOVE: The koi pond in the Teahouse Garden is a serene place for meditation. PHOTO by Arlene Vidor.

LEFT: The teahouse was dedicated in 1974 by the 15th Grand Tea Master of the Urasenke School of Tea in Japan. It is an official tearoom and one of only a few Japanese teahouses open to the public in the country. PHOTO courtesy of City of Glendale Parks and Recreation.

dedicated as "Shoseian," or Whispering Pines" by the fifteenth Grand Tea Master of the Urasenke School of Tea in Japan and is an official tearoom in which many formal tea ceremonies have taken place.

**THE MISS AMERICAN GREEN CROSS STATUE** was created in 1928 by Frederick Willard Potter to honor the founding of The American Green Cross in Glendale, one of the country's earliest tree protection organizations. Until Miss Green Cross settled in Brand Park she had a tough life. Soon after her unveiling at the corner of Broadway and Verdugo, a car crashed into her and then the lady mysteriously vanished and was not rediscovered until 30 years later when hikers came upon her in Brand Canyon - minus one of her arms. After languishing in storage for many years, Miss Green Cross was finally restored by the Parks Department with assistance from Glendale Beautiful. The City retained then-Glendale Community College instructor Ron Pekar to sculpt a new bronze arm, which was attached, and she was re-dedicated at her current location in 1992.

Fastforward to 2007—Glendale City employees are clearing brush in back of Brand Library and they unearth Miss Green Cross's original right arm—now missing a finger! The Parks Department currently has possession of the arm. What could be next for Miss Green Cross? Re-attachment of her original arm?

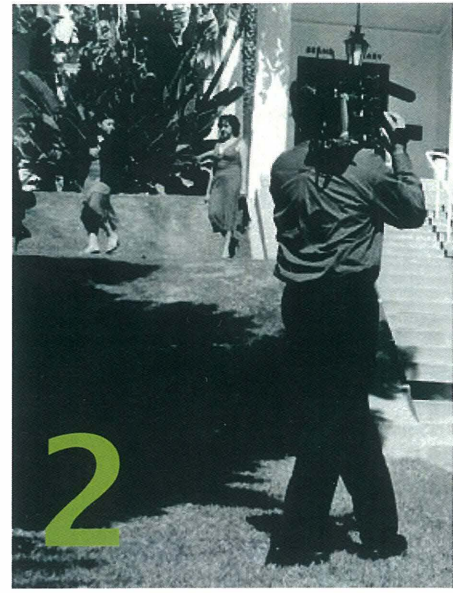
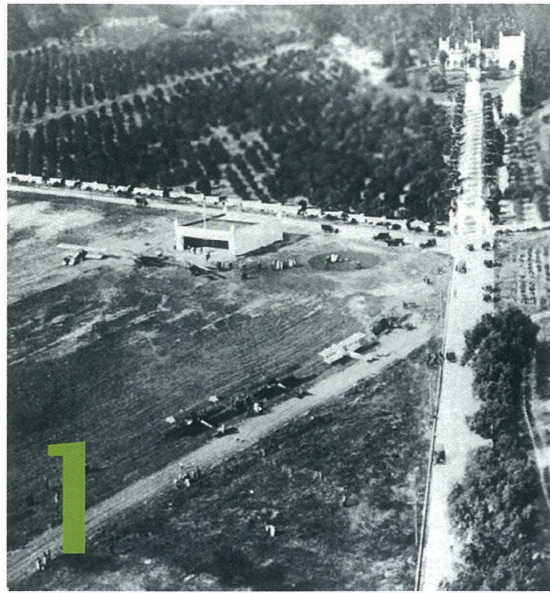
**THE BRAND FAMILY CEMETERY** is the final point of interest in the Park. Leslie C. Brand dedicated a secluded space in Brand Canyon for the burial of his imme-

**Parks continued on page 8**

**Parks  
continued from page 7**

diate family and his wife. Both L.C. and Mrs. Mary Louise Brand are buried there along with many of their beloved dogs. Also, Leslie Brand's mother and father are buried in the plot.

What is unique about the enclosed family cemetery is the large pyramid marker that was chosen to commemorate the family. The choice of a pyramid is somewhat of a mystery but we know that Mr. L.C. Brand was quite a maverick and did not always conform to the status quo.



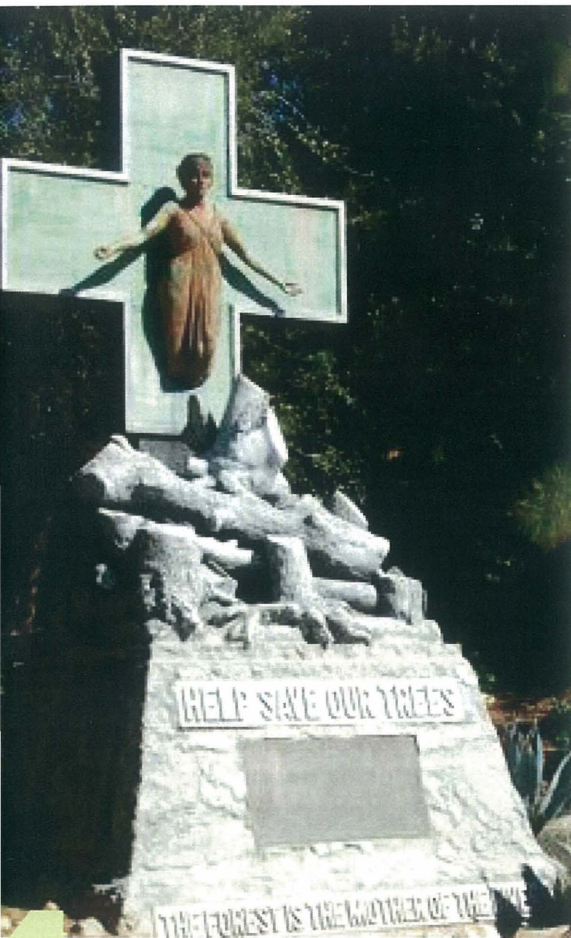
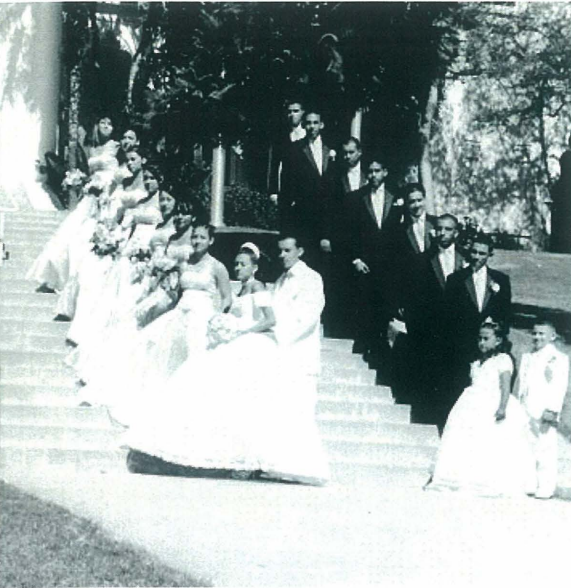
**1** Aerial view in the 1920s looking north along Grandview to Brand's Castle (now the Brand Library) and his orchards, which became Brand Park, as well as his private hangar and airfield, later subdivided and developed. PHOTO courtesy of Glendale Public Library Special Collections.

**2** Today Brand Park is an inspiration setting for many celebratory photo sessions. This one is a Quinceanera, or 15th birthday party. PHOTO by Arlene Vidor.

**3** Mary Louise Brand visiting her husband's grave site with one of many beloved dogs. In 1945 Mrs. Brand was buried alongside her husband at this family plot in Brand Canyon. PHOTO courtesy of Glendale Public Library Special Collections.







Miss American Green Cross in her final resting place in Brand Park beckons people onto the mountain trails. Her right arm had to be replaced as it disappeared during the statue's missing years. PHOTO by Arlene Vidor.

Eva Rappoport of the Parks and Recreation Department is now in possession of Miss Green Cross's missing arm, which was unearthed in Brand Park in 2007. PHOTO by Richard Espinoza.

# The Glendale Historical Society Budget

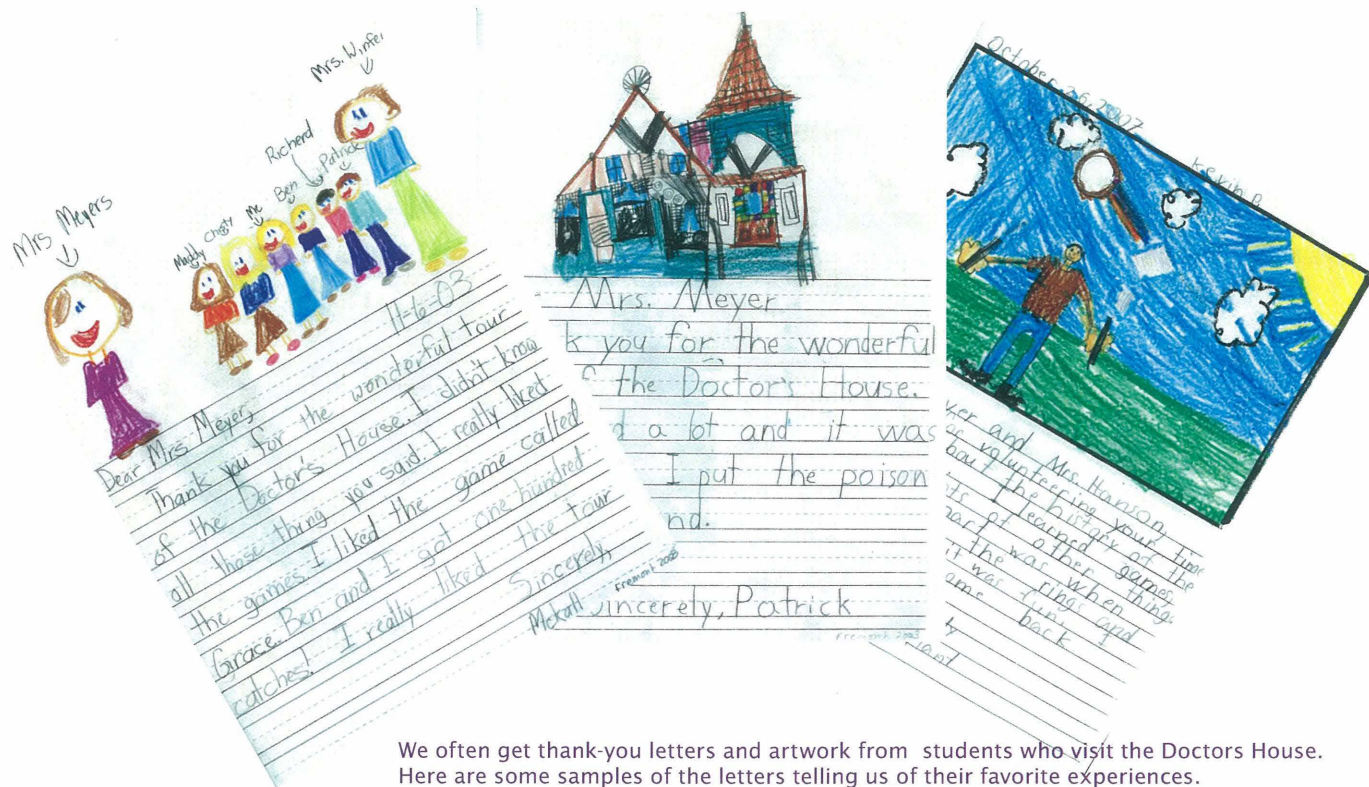
## December 2007- November 2008

### Income

Member Dues	\$5,000
Museum Donations	1,000
TGHS Donations	300
Glendale Community Foundation Interest	1,200
Museum Merchandise Sales	800
Museum Special Events	2,000
TGHS Special Events	1,500
TGHS Merchandise Sales	300
Newsletter Ad Revenue	100
	<u>\$12,200</u>

### Expenses

Membership Other Organizations	\$300
Insurance	1,500
Mail Box Rental	75
Postage	500
Telephone	275
Website	400
Newsletter	4,000
Publicity	500
Office Supplies	300
Maintenance	100
Historic Districting	300
Workshops/Conferences	100
Docent Training	100
Museum Merchandise	350
Museum Acquisitions	300
Awards/Recognition	300
Museum Special Events	1,000
TGHS Special Events	1,500
Membership	300
	<u>\$12,200</u>



We often get thank-you letters and artwork from students who visit the Doctors House. Here are some samples of the letters telling us of their favorite experiences.

# Doctors House news

**O**VER THE PAST FEW YEARS, the Doctors House has become a favorite venue for Glendale third-graders' field trips. During the year, they study local history and we invite them to visit our museum for a tour through a circa 1900 Glendale home.

During the past year, 550 local students have taken advantage of this free treat. Each student gets to assist our docents with a hands-on activity in the house, such as identifying by smell a home remedy in the doctors' office, dusting with a feather duster or packing an old-fashioned school lunch. Meanwhile, the students awaiting their turn outside alternate between Victorian games such as croquet, hoops and sticks and graces and doing the old-time chores. Girls get to do laundry on a washboard and hang the items on a clothing line or to sweep the porches. Boys water our roses with galvanized steel watering cans and beat a rag rug with a

willow carpet beater. On hot days, we serve homemade lemonade to our thirsty visitors and the morning usually ends with a picnic on the lawn and more running around the grounds of the museum.

As a docent who is present for most of these school tours, I can testify to the fact that a good time is had by all. It is always refreshing to see these youngsters doing new activities which are so far removed from how they usually spend their time, much of which involves electronics and passive play. The fact that so many teachers bring back their classes every year indicates how much they enjoy themselves. We are always in need of docents who enjoy interacting with children and I guarantee a rewarding experience for anyone willing to help. Please call me at 242-4290, if you are interested in helping once a month.

Isabelle Meyer  
Curator

# Welcome New\* Renewing and Upgraded+ Members

## A HEARTFELT THANKS

to our new and renewing  
members, and to members  
who have rejoined.

And a special Thank You  
to members who have

upgraded+ their membership.

Consider

a membership upgrade the  
next time you renew.

### TROPICO PATRON

Carole & Michael Dougherty  
Thomas McIntyre+

### SUSTAINING

Cindy Cleary\*  
Dorothy Knisley+

### FAMILY/DUAL

Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen\*  
Moira Delaney+  
Gary Freeman & Nick Macierz\*  
Dennis Greco+  
Shanna & Scott Igoe+  
Sonia & Hector Montejano\*  
Michael Murray & Kelly Jones  
Sheila & Dick Murray\*  
Virginia & Ray Newburn+  
Roxanne & Ron Odom\*  
Ann & Bob Oliphant+  
Sharon & Philip Paquet+

### INDIVIDUAL

Patricai Bates  
Ute Baum+  
Jane Edwards\*  
Sally MacAller  
Alen Malekian\*

Carol Merry\*  
Joan Morris  
Anna Rundle+  
Robin Urban\*  
Elaine Williams

### SENIOR/STUDENT

Clara Arsenovich\*  
Margaret Bickmore  
Zuzka Eggena\*  
Carol Jean Felkel  
Richard Johnson\*  
Phyllis M Kenney  
Sheila Koster\*  
Doris & Melvin  
McKently  
Michael Sharp

### SMALL BUSINESS

Juliet Arroyo  
Sunset Strip Realty\*

### NON PROFIT

Arab American  
Historical Foundation\*  
Chevy Chase Estates  
Association\*

## 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 (\$40)  
Individual (\$25)  
Individual Senior or Student (\$15)

*Nonprofit organizations are encouraged  
to join TGHS as Associate Members  
(No voting rights)  
Nonprofit (\$35)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Preservation advocacy  
 Historic Districting  
 Fundraising

Special events/Tours  
 Outreach/Education  
 Doctors House volunteers

Historic research/Surveys  
 Archiving/Organizing  
 Membership/Outreach

# Winter's Eve at Ard Eevin

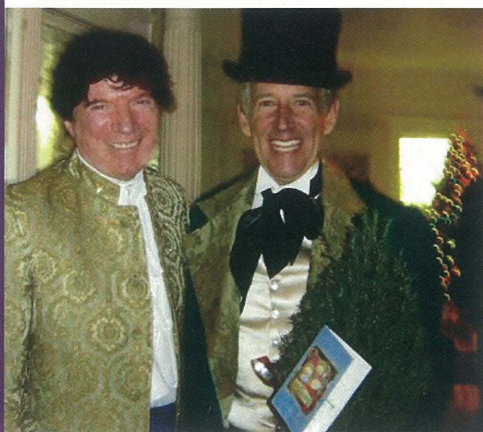
## We need no excuse for a party, however.....

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, our members partied out 2007 by attending a reception at Ard Eevin House. Aside from the holiday festivities, we also toasted the naming of the fully restored Ard Eevin to The National Register of Historic Places. Ard Eevin is now one of only two residential structures in Glendale to be listed on the National Register. Derby House is the other one. Here are a few snapshots from the event, which was a celebratory and culinary extravaganza.



Left: Our host, Sally MacAller, serves up the goodies with true elegance.

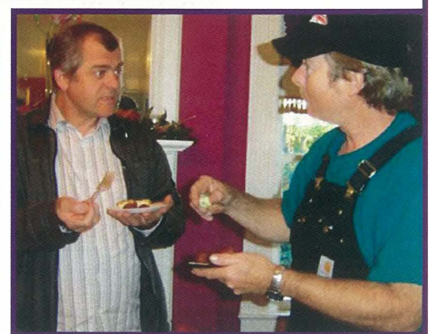
Right: TGHS Secretary Elaine Wilkerson keeps the food coming.



Scott Halloran's and Peter Rusch's attire seemed to be channeling Charles Dickens with a touch of Vegas.



Daniel Paul, architectural historian, prepared and submitted the application for the National Register. He appears to be basking in the glow of the National Register plaque.



Guillaume Lemoine and Andy MacAller feast on the hors d'oeuvres.

Photos: Arlene Vidor

The Glendale Historical Society  
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Glendale CA 91202  
[www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org)