
The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage

Fall 2009



Photo: Greg Grammer

Royal Boulevard Historic District

2009 Fall Home Tour At Home in Glendale's Historic Districts

The Glendale Historical Society's annual Fall Home Tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2009. As part of our ongoing anniversary commemorations, this year's event "At Home in Glendale's Historic Districts" will celebrate the establishment of Glendale's three historic district overlay zones: Royal Boulevard, Cottage Grove and Ard Eevin Highlands. The years-long effort to establish historic districts in Glendale is one of the Society's most significant achievements of the past 30 years.

A sampling of architecturally significant homes in each district will be open for docent-led tours from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm, with the last tour in each house starting at 4:30 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 per person for TGHS members (\$30.00 for non-members) and will be available for sale the day of the tour beginning at 10:30 am, at the Assistance League of Glendale, 314 E. Harvard Street. Parking is available in the Assistance League's lot.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer for this year's tour, please visit our website, www.glendalehistorical.org, or call 818-242-7447.



Photo: Arlene Vidor

Cottage Grove Historic District



Photo: John LoCascio

Ard Eevin Highlands Historic District

DETAILS

AT HOME IN GLENDALE'S HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Sunday - October 11, 2009
11:00 am to 5:00 pm

\$20 per TGHS member
\$30 per non-member

Tickets available day of tour at the
Assistance League of Glendale
314 E Harvard Street, Glendale CA 91205

The tour is self-driving.
Questions: 818 242-7447
www.glendalehistorical.org

President's Message

As we celebrate The Glendale Historical Society's 30th anniversary with a look back at our past efforts and accomplishments, we also look forward to the organization's continued growth and development. To that end, our **anniversary party on September 20** will be partnered with our annual Members' Meeting and election for the Board of Directors for 2009-2010. This year's election will bring significant changes to the makeup of the Board: three of our longest-serving Directors will be retiring that day.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Isabelle, Judy and Arlene for the six years that I have served on the Board. Their passion and dedication never cease to amaze and inspire me.

John LoCascio

Few have served TGHS longer or with more dedication than **Isabelle Meyer** and **Judy Cabrera**. Isabelle was an original member of the Committee for Relocation of the Doctors House that formed in the fall of 1979 and was among those who walked behind the house when it was moved from downtown to Brand Park. She volunteered in the restoration work and in researching and collecting the house's finishes and furnishings. **And for the last 18 years, she has worked tirelessly as the Doctors House Curator, maintaining the collection and organizing the docents, exhibits and tours.**

Judy, like Isabelle, has been continuously active in TGHS from its earliest days. While the Doctors House was being restored, Judy worked with Isabelle on the committee that researched and located period furnishings for the house, in many cases cajoling the owners of the pieces into making them a permanent donation. **When the restored house was opened to the public in May of 1984, Judy**

was among the first group of volunteer docents who led the tours, a task she continues to this day. And for the last six years she has served on the Board as the Society's Treasurer, a role she has filled with unfailing efficiency, reliability and good cheer.

Arlene Vidor has served on our Board for the last nine years, six of them as President. She led TGHS in a string of impressive preservation successes, including the achievement of one of our most important and long-standing goals: the adoption of a workable historic district ordinance and design guidelines, and the establishment of the City's first historic district overlay zones. She fostered the Society's close working relationships with the City of Glendale and with sister organizations such as the Los Angeles Conservancy; and she undertook the gargantuan task of updating our website and revamping our internal and external communications.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Isabelle, Judy and Arlene for the six years that I have served on the Board. Their passion and dedication never cease to amaze and inspire me, and I sincerely thank them for their years of exemplary service. Although they will all remain active in TGHS—Isabelle will continue to docent school tours at the Doctors House and Arlene will continue her work on the Communications Committee—their regular presence on the Board will be sorely missed.

But change brings with it new opportunities. New faces will join the Board, bringing their own talents, passion and dedication. And thus will TGHS renew itself, as it has so many times in the past 30 years, and continue to grow into an ever stronger, ever more effective organization.

I invite you to join us at the Doctors House at 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 20 to participate in this year's election, convey our annual preservation and service awards, raise a toast to our retiring Board members and our founders and celebrate thirty years of preservation advocacy in Glendale.

John LoCascio

Fall 2009

The Glendale Historical Society Officers & Board of Directors

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Marcia Hanford

DOCTORS HOUSE CURATOR

Isabelle Meyer

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

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Arlene Vidor

Elaine Wilkerson

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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

Glendale History Drive Needs You By Marcia Hanford

Be a part of the ongoing Glendale History Drive! A vast range of items can help to document our city's past.

A few examples of items to share are: photos of buildings, people, landscapes. Official documents such as birth certificates, property deeds, tax records. Receipts, bills, or correspondence on letterhead from area businesses and organizations. Advertisements for goods or services.

Don't know who those people are in your photos? The buildings in the background may be informative to the collection. Wondering why some ancestor kept that receipt for nails and paint from an old home improvement project? The letterhead and prices may be useful for documenting earlier businesses.

Call 818-548-2030 to make an appointment. If you don't want to part with the originals, the library will scan and give them back to you.



Photos: Arlene Vidor

Special Collections librarian George Ellison and TGHS member Scott Lowe examine a photo being cataloged by a library staffer.

Photos donated to the Glendale History Drive were scanned and made ready for cataloging on the Drive's inaugural day at the Glendale Public Library.

Photo: Greg Grammer



This is part of an ongoing series that highlights Glendale properties that have been recently designated as local landmarks.

“Castle House” Designated Glendale Resource #71

By Greg Grammer

Atrue neighborhood landmark, Glendale Historic Resource No. 71, commonly known as the “Castle House” by area residents, is located at the top of the intersection of Geneva and Mountain Streets. It was built in 1926 in the Bellehurst Hillslope tract that was subdivided by the Walter H. Leimert Company in 1923. The house was built as a speculative venture by local contractor John T. Bibb, Jr.

Shortly after the house was completed, Mr. Bibb sold the property to James Ashley Endicott and his wife Clare Louise. Mr. Endicott was in the real estate and general insurance business, with an office on Brand Blvd. In 1928, the Endicotts purchased 30 feet of an adjoining lot and added it to the property.

The house was put up for auction in October 1941, and over the next decade had a succession of owners that never seemed to inhabit the house for much more than a year. Then, in 1951, the home was sold to Edwin Herman Neeb and Robert Stevens Broughton, two gentlemen who lived together in the house. Mr. Broughton was part owner of The Forge restaurant at 222 E. Broadway, and together they ran Broughton Books & Antiques at 1552 E. Colorado.

In 1973, Mr. Broughton and Mr. Neeb sold the home, and title was passed on to a few others until the current owners, Paul Papile and Heather Tom, purchased the property in October 2001.

With its towering profile and three visible stories, capped by a tall, steeply-pitched roof, the home is an unusual example of the French Revival style that was marginally popular in Glendale in the 1920s and 1930s. The home's dominant feature is the tall, circular tower that is capped by a high conical roof. The diagonally-arrayed windows indicate the tower's function as a stairway, and the faux-stone window surround draws further attention to this characteristic feature. The home retains its original historic composition and exhibits the hallmarks of excellent 1920s craftsmanship.

The Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council determined that the property was eligible to be listed on the City's Register of Historic Resources because the home exemplifies one of the best remaining architectural types in Glendale (Criterion D), and is a well-established and highly-visible feature in the neighborhood, as emphasized by its imposing tower and soaring placement above street level (Criterion E).

1979-2009
Celebrating 30 years

The Doctors House Restoration Moves Indoors

By John LoCascio

In the fall of 1980, the Doctors House had at last been moved from its original downtown location to its new home in Brand Park, having been saved from the wrecking ball through the efforts of The Glendale Historical Society. TGHS then began the long and arduous task of reassembling and restoring the house with a team of volunteers under the coordination of the Society's first president, **Marie Luft**, and her husband **Glenn**.

SUE LAZARA BECOMES PROJECT HISTORIAN

The move and restoration of the old Victorian house caught the attention and interest of Glendale resident **Sue Lazara**, who was then serving as community outreach chair for a local women's organization. With the encouragement of Marie Luft, Sue proposed merging some of the women's club members into the house museum project to help with the restoration effort. Sue, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Southern Methodist University, soon took on the daunting job of project historian to determine what the interior of the house looked like in 1896 and to ensure that the restoration and refurnishing were authentic. Forming a group that included **Bonnie Dunlap**, **Frances Grigsby**, **Audrey Hale**, **Bea Penniall**, **Greta Reed Morena** and others, Sue began to carefully research the house's physical clues and documented history while working closely with volunteer architect **Graham Latta** and State Historic Preservation Officer **Stade Craigo** to get the details right.

Markings discovered on the parlor floor indicated that the bay window had originally been fitted with a built-in window seat, which was rebuilt, while markings on the floor of another room indicated that it was an early kitchen, proving that the house did in fact originally have an integral kitchen and not a separate cookhouse as had been previously suspected. Historically correct lighting and plumbing fixtures were searched out and period furnishings were identified and acquired, sometimes by donation and sometimes by purchase. The group's dedication to authenticity never wavered; when a kitchen stove acquired by a committee member turned out to date to the wrong decade, it was returned and a stove of the correct date was found instead—although the committee had to raise substantial additional funds for the more appropriate appliance.



Photo: Arlene Vidor

Paint scrapings were collected from hidden recesses and carefully documented to guide the process of replicating original interior materials and finishes. Several layers of early wallpaper fragments were collected from behind wainscoting and door frames, a search that continued until Sue had sufficient samples from which to piece together a full pattern for replication. In this way, four separate wallpaper patterns once used by early resident families of the house were identified for replication, and a grant was secured by Marie Luft to fund the committee's dream of decorating the house with the actual paper and colors used there during the 1890s. The original paper fragments were submitted to Scalmandre of New York for careful replication, including the rose-colored paper that hangs today on the walls of the parlor and dining room—a pattern that Scalmandre has made commercially available under the name "Doctors House."

INTERVIEWS PROVIDE HISTORY OF EARLY FAMILIES

In addition to studying the building's physical clues and researching the style and period parameters, the group interviewed elderly residents and located descendants of the doctors who had given the house its name. Thus a number of intertwined stories of the building and its significant occupants were pieced together including those of doctors Bogue, Hunt and Hurtt; silent film star Nell Shipman; a process that continued most recently to include the Dzaich and Kordich families.

Sue's team even researched the types of plants, trees, and shrubs that were typical of the time and locale and that might have been found in the Doctors House environs. The City's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department designed and implemented the landscaping with these in mind. City parks workers also moved the large palm tree from the house's original site up to the Brand Park location.



1 The window seat in the parlor of the Doctors House was reconstructed after “ghost” marks on the floor were uncovered. The wallpaper was replicated by Scalamandre from scraps which had been covered by moldings added by later homeowners. The frieze above the windows is from Sagamore Hill, Teddy Roosevelt’s house of the same period. Replicated light fixtures are also from the period of the original construction of the house.

2 Sue Lazara, project historian of the Doctors House, who currently lives in Linden, Texas, was named Citizen of the Year by the Linden Chamber of Commerce and is seen here as Grand Marshal of the town’s 2007 Christmas parade.

3 A 1903 photo of the 1861 Cass County Courthouse, originally built with slave labor and now the oldest surviving courthouse in Texas. Sue dedicated two years to researching and writing a grant application for the restoration of this building, and her efforts were rewarded by a \$4,500,000 grant to fully restore the building at state expense.



Photos 2 and 3 source: Sue Lazara

When the house was finally opened in May of 1984, its elegant but homey interiors, authentic to the last detail, were ready for public tours. The next order of business was to organize yet another committee to provide docent services for the house museum. With the dedicated help of her good friend **Lee Sale**, Sue wrote a docent manual which Lee then used to recruit and train that first, very special group of Doctors House volunteers, including **Judy Cabrera**, **Merry Franzen**, **Audrey Hales**, **Suzanne McKay**, **Isabelle Meyer** and **Joan Morris**.

SUE RECEIVES PRESERVATION AWARDS IN TEXAS

After a successful business career in Los Angeles and Dallas, Sue retired to her hometown of Linden, Texas, to help her aging father after the death of her mother. At that time, local residents were not appreciative of the town’s history and uniqueness. When Sue began buying up neglected homes and undertaking restorations, some of the locals characterized her as being “infected” with crazy California ideas. That began to change as the restored homes—formerly considered “hopelessly old and undesirable”—reclaimed their former strength and beauty, and the enhancement value of Sue’s first few projects became evident to neighbors. Together with a few friends and investors, Sue has completed a dozen residential and commercial restorations in Linden, and at least eight of her friends are now involved in similar projects in the town. In 2007, the Linden Chamber of Commerce presented Sue with their Citizen of the Year Award, in appreciation of her local restorations. That same year, Preservation Texas and the Texas Historical Commission honored both Sue and her fabulous Linden carpenter Jan Hamilton with the 2007 Clara Driscoll award for excellence in local preservation.

Sue also put her Doctors House experience to use in securing a \$4,500,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission

for a full restoration of Linden’s Cass County Courthouse—the only surviving Texas courthouse from the antebellum era.

“It’s taken a number of years for the value of the old residential inventory in the area to be recognized,” says Sue, “much less for the broader community benefits of historic preservation to be comprehended. This is a small town and is relatively poor and economically challenged. The ironic thing is that Linden is also a very old town, platted in 1848, with history everywhere – but some of the best historic resources in town have for a very long time been unnoticed, neglected, and endangered. Each time one of these good old homes is properly reclaimed, a neighborhood is lifted up, history is celebrated, and one more family can live substantially better than before.”

Thank you to Carole Dougherty and Sue Lazara who contributed to this article.

This article is the third in a series during the 30th anniversary of the founding of The Glendale Historical Society. The series will report on the early activities of the Society and the people who pursued our mission: Celebrating and preserving Glendale’s history and architectural heritage.



Anna Rundle, above, was recognized for her 22 years of service as a docent at a recent gathering of Doctors House Lead Docents. Emily Williams, right, also a lead docent recognized at the gathering, has been a docent at the Doctors House since she was a teenager. Now married, she is taking a leave of absence as she expects her first child.



Photo: Graeme Whiffler

30th Anniversary Exhibit by Sonia Montejano

This Fall, the Doctors House Museum will display a commemorative exhibit in honor of The Glendale Historical Society's 30th anniversary. Featured will be a collection of photographs, documents and various artifacts celebrating thirty years of preservation advocacy highlighting the people, events and achievements of the Society's first three decades.

The exhibit will chronicle the efforts of our founding members who incorporated the Society specifically to save the Doctors House from pending demolition. Also featured will be some of the organization's most significant subsequent preservation successes, including the Goode House, the Alex Theatre, Glendale Federal, our historic street lights and most recently, the first Historic Districts in Glendale.

Of course not all preservation efforts have happy endings. The exhibit will also include the loss of the Egyptian Village Café, a grand example of eclectic architecture that represented a unique time in Glendale's history. It was demolished despite the best efforts of TGHS to save it.

Since its formation, TGHS has advocated for the preservation of culturally and architecturally significant structures; has advanced the study of local history, and has ensured the continued public access and enjoyment of the Doctors House. We invite you to view our special anniversary exhibit and honor the many volunteers who have given so much of their time and energy towards the various goals and objectives of The Glendale Historical Society.

The exhibit will be officially opened at our Members Meeting and anniversary reception beginning at 4:00 PM on September 20, and will continue at the Doctors House until the Candlelight Tours in December. The Doctors House is open every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 PM except in case of rain and holidays.

TGHS Honors Docents for Decades of Service

Since the Doctors House Museum opened its doors in 1984, it has been maintained, staffed and supported by many volunteer docents. Some have developed a deep affection for the old Victorian and have devoted an extraordinary amount of time and effort in its service. Two such dedicated volunteers recently retired from service.

EMILY WILLIAMS

Emily Williams has volunteered at the Doctors House since she was a teenager. Her enthusiasm and energy led her to take on many responsibilities to ensure that the Museum operated at its best, and she eventually became a lead docent. She continued to volunteer during her college years and, not surprisingly, chose the Doctors House as the location for her wedding ceremony. After years of dedicated service, she has taken a leave of absence as she awaits the birth of her first child. Emily will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best and hope to see her back in the not-too-distant future.

ANNA RUNDLE

Anna Rundle is a true lady in every respect, and a very special and dear friend of the Doctors House. She is an enthusiastic and long-time supporter of TGHS and a regular attendee at our tours and events. One of our lead docents, she has volunteered at the Doctors House since 1987. Anna takes great pleasure in her work at the house and particularly loves to see children experience the Victorian period for the first time, but she has decided to take a much-deserved break and retired from the Docent Guild earlier this year. TGHS remains indebted to Anna for her 22 years of dedicated service to the Doctors House.

Welcome New*Members

A HEARTFELT THANKS to our renewing members,
members who have upgraded+ and to members who have rejoined.

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Glendale Adventist
Medical Center

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Ray Podesta
(International House of
Pancakes IHOP #708)
Larry Tison
(Tison and Associates
Landscape Architecture)

TROPICO PATRON (\$100)

Sean Bersell & Heather Norris

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Byron & Louise Peebles+
The Studio for
Southern California History*

FAMILY/DUAL (\$40)

Cherie Lee Gordon+
Nick Macierz & Gary Freeman
Neda Pourang*
Lila & Rich Ramirez
Jim & Carolyn Starbird*

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Mary Baldwin
Adel Luzuriaga*
Deb Ann Orfalea*
Patricia Zeider*

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Betty Albu
Don Corbett*
Dorothy Montapert
Dr. William Thomas*
Sandra Weggeland
Elaine M. Williams

NONPROFIT (\$35)

George Ellison/Glendale Library

PAST PRESIDENTS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Deborah Dentler
Carole Dougherty
Andrea Humberger
Marie Luft
Steve Preston
Bill Shepherd
David Smith
Arlene Vidor

Please consider a membership upgrade+ the next time you renew.

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/Zip _____ Email Address _____

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events/Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic research/Surveys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Districting | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Archiving/Organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors House volunteers | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Outreach |

1979-2009 Celebrating 30 years

The Glendale Historical Society
PO Box 4173
Glendale CA 91202
www.glendalehistorical.org

You are invited to celebrate
our 30th anniversary

September 20, 2009

The Doctors House
1601 West Mountain Street

- 4:00 pm ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS CEREMONY
4:30 pm OPENING OF ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT
celebrating 30 years of preservation advocacy
4:30 - 6:00 pm CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

At the 4 pm annual meeting we will elect
board members for the coming year. The
nominees are: Greg Grammer, Margaret
Hammond, Marcia Hanford, Scott Lowe,
Peter Rusch and Lorna Vartanian.

Members will also adopt the annual financial
report and budget for 2009-2010.

*Please email tghs@glendalehistorical.org or call (818) 242-7447
with your name and the number of guests who will attend.*

2009 EVENTS CALENDAR

Check our website for details and for additional events: www.glendalehistorical.org

EVERY SUNDAY DOCENT LED TOURS OF THE DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM

Brand Park
No reservations.
\$1 donation collected at
the door.
2:00 - 4:00 pm
1601 W. Mountain
Enter at Grandview and
Mountain.

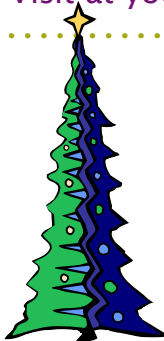
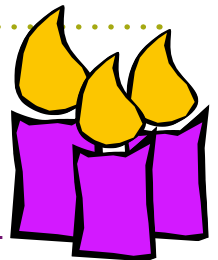
Note: The Doctors
House Museum is
closed during the
month of July, major
holidays and if raining.

October 11 TGHS ANNUAL HOME TOUR

Details on page 1. Tour will include homes
in each of Glendale's three historic districts.

CANDLELIGHT TOURS OF DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM DECEMBER 12 AND DECEMBER 19

6:30 pm- 8:30 pm. No reservations. Refreshments.
\$2 per adult, \$1 per child collected at the door.
Visit at your convenience. Last tour begins at 8:15 pm.



DECEMBER 6 Holiday Celebration

MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY
FREE

Sunday December 6, 2009
Details to be announced.