
The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage

Winter 2009

Photo: Jeri Anderson



FORMER PRESIDENT APPOINTED TO HPC

ARLENE VIDOR, immediate past president of TGHS, was nominated to the City of Glendale's Historic Preservation Commission by City Council Member **Laura Friedman** and appointed by Council on October 20. Arlene will officially assume her new duties at the HPC's January meeting and will serve concurrently with Council Member Friedman's term to expire in April of 2013. Arlene served nine years on the Board, six of them as president, and will be the second former TGHS President to serve on the HPC; former President **Deborah Dentler** served two terms on the Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission advises City Council on historic preservation issues in Glendale. At its monthly hearings the HPC considers nominations to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and applications for new historic districts. It also reviews designs for proposed work to designated properties and properties within historic districts for conformity with the City's preservation guidelines and standards.

On behalf of the entire membership, the Board sends warm congratulations to Arlene on her very impressive appointment and wishes her all the best in her new position.

Three New Members Elected to TGHS Board

TGHS is pleased to welcome its three newest members to the Board of Directors who were elected at the September 20, 2009, Annual Meeting. Each of them brings a diverse set of interests, skills and experiences that will be valuable in carrying out the Society's mission of preserving and celebrating Glendale's history and architectural heritage.



SCOTT LOWE has a keen interest in Glendale history and lore, which he shares on his popular Tropic Station blog. He has been a Doctors House docent for about two years and has participated in several TGHS home tours. Scott has extensive design and computer graphics skills and has been a valuable member of TGHS's Communications Committee. He is active in the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and is responsible for developing the recent bicycle and walking historic tours in Glendale. He is an asset manager at Renegade Animation and lives in the Tropic area of Glendale.



PETER RUSCH has been involved in grassroots preservation advocacy work in his neighborhood and has been a docent on several TGHS tours. He was an Advertising and Media Director in the outdoor furniture business; and his responsibilities included, among other things, creating catalogs, photography shoots, and designing trade show booths. Peter is also an active supporter of the Character and Ethics Project, Glendale Healthy Kids, and The Glendale Symphony. He lives in Northwest Glendale.



LORNA VARTANIAN is a strong supporter of historic districts due to the admiration she holds for her neighborhood and for the 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival home she owns. Lorna holds a Bachelor's Degree in art history from UCLA and is passionate about art, architecture, and historic preservation. She has worked for the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice, Italy. She also has over 20 years of law firm management experience in the area of finance and accounting. In her first term, Lorna has been appointed to serve as TGHS Treasurer.

President's Message

I encourage each of you, in addition to renewing or upgrading your membership this coming year, to take an active role in preserving Glendale's history and architectural heritage by volunteering for one of our committees.

Contact any board member at the email address listed at the right of this column or leave a message on our phone at (818) 242-7447.

Our 30th anniversary year is coming to a close, after what seems like a whirlwind of nonstop activity: our bicycle and walking tours; the **Dzaich-Kordich** Anniversary exhibits at the Doctors House; a popular "how to" seminar by City Preservation Planner **Jay Platt**; the spectacular re-creation of the Casa Verdugo restaurant; our Annual Meeting and anniversary party; and our Fall Home Tour. Two new historic districts were designated, and the City is finally beginning to address the plague of non-permitted window replacements that is ruining Glendale's fine old residential neighborhoods. It's been a busy and gratifying twelve months, and it's not quite over yet. The annual Candlelight Tours of the Doctors House are coming up on December 12 and 19, and our members' holiday party will be held December 6 at the historic Goode House, the site of the very first TGHS holiday party thirty years ago.

This also marks the completion of my first term as President, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors for their hard work and enthusiasm; the accomplishments of this past year would not have been possible without them. I am also happy to welcome our newly elected Directors,

Scott, Peter and Lorna, who are already infusing the Board with new perspectives and fresh ideas.

I am grateful as well to you, our members, for your continued support.

The coming year will bring many new challenges—more neighborhoods need the protection of historic district overlay zoning; more landmarks are yet to be identified and registered. Several promising projects that would have restored some of our most notable buildings have been abandoned as a result of the economic crisis. The City still lacks an adaptive reuse ordinance, and we have yet to see a comprehensive, City-wide survey of historic resources. Achieving these goals will take not only time, but the involvement of our membership; your participation is the key to successful preservation advocacy in Glendale. I encourage each of you, in addition to renewing or upgrading your membership this coming year, to take an active role in preserving Glendale's history and architectural heritage by volunteering for one of our committees.

Contact any board member at the email address listed at the right of this column or leave a message on our phone at (818) 242-7447.

I wish you Happy Holidays, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

John LoCascio
Winter 2009

The Glendale Historical Society Officers & Board of Directors

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www.glendalehistorical.org

The Glendale Historical Society quarterly newsletter is the official publication of the Society



Carole Dougherty receives first Lifetime Service Award

By John LoCascio

The Glendale Historical Society presented a new and very special award at this year's Annual Members Meeting on September 20, an award that was especially appropriate as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations. Founding member and former President **Carole Dougherty** was given the Society's first Lifetime Service Award in appreciation of her 30 years of continuous leadership and support of TGHS and the cause of historic preservation in Glendale.

Dougherty's involvement predates the founding of TGHS itself. In September of 1979, when City Council member **Jack Day** organized a community meeting to gauge public support for preserving and moving the Doctors House, Dougherty was already involved in historic preservation efforts and felt that Glendale should have a preservation organization. She had also, in 1975, researched and written a successful application to list her Lloyd Wright-designed home on the National Register of Historic Places. So she attended Day's meeting to see what she could do to help save the old Victorian. Dougherty so impressed Day that he asked her to chair the ad hoc Committee for Relocation of the Doctors House, formed that evening.

At the time Dougherty thought she wasn't the right person for the job. She says she reluctantly accepted to serve until another more qualified chairperson could be found. The Committee quickly coalesced under her leadership. Dougherty soon persuaded Marie Luft to join the effort (see *"Perils and Joys of the Doctors House Restoration," Summer 2009*) and the two made a formidable team. Working at a feverish pace, Dougherty, Luft and their committee consulted with architects, engineers and contractors to determine the feasibility of moving the house and secured moral and financial support from numerous local businesses and organizations, while continuing to lobby Council to approve the move and provide land for the relocated house (see *"Historical Society Off to a Moving Start," Spring 2009*).

When the ad hoc committee was officially incorporated as The Glendale Historical Society in October of that year, Dougherty's natural shyness came to the fore and she asked Luft to serve as the organization's first president, with Dougherty as vice president. Together they assembled the



Photo: Jeri Anderson

Carole Dougherty's husband and fans from Orange County joined her at TGHS's 30th anniversary celebration at the Doctors House: Left to right: Grandson Michael Flatebo, son-in-law James Flatebo, Carole, grandson Ted, daughter Bernice Flatebo and Carole's husband Michael.

first board of directors, and that December they won their first major victory when the City Council voted to provide a site in Brand Park and allocated funds for the house's annual upkeep. Dougherty continued to work to raise funds for the house's move and eventual restoration, successfully organizing fundraisers and applying for grants.

Early in 1981, with restoration under way, Luft took on the job of project coordinator full-time and Dougherty assumed the presidency of TGHS. In her four years as president, Dougherty steered the group from its beginnings as an amateur community committee and successfully developed it into an effective preservation advocacy organization. In 1983, she helped the Society secure a \$14,100 grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation for the first survey of historic and architecturally significant buildings in Glendale's downtown business district, which the Society hoped would provide documentation for future preservation efforts. And it was Dougherty who led the fierce grass-roots campaign that attempted to save the Egyptian Village Cafe, whose ultimate demolition she called "one of the saddest losses to redevelopment" in the City's history.

"Carole would blush at this assessment," says one of her successors, former TGHS President **Steve Preston**, "but I do believe that she was very much the spirit and life force of the early days of TGHS, when credibility was everything. Carole was the born diplomat: easily able to negotiate troubled waters, with an inquisitive and gracious spirit. She never enjoyed the limelight or the public speaking requirements of the presidency, yet she presented exactly the image that TGHS

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD continued on page 8

Celebrating 30 years with panache

by John LoCascio and Elaine Wilkerson
Photos by Jeri Anderson



The Glendale Historical Society officially celebrated its 30th anniversary with an elegant reception at the Doctors House Gazebo on Sunday, September 20th. Almost 100 guests gathered to sip champagne, enjoy delicious Porto's hors d'oeuvres and tour the special anniversary exhibit displayed in the Doctors House. The impressive exhibit chronicled the biggest successes, and some of the saddest losses, of the Society's first three decades. The exhibit materials were culled from the TGHS archives by Board members **Elaine Wilkerson** and **Sonia Montejano** and former president **Arlene Vidor** and expertly arranged and displayed by TGHS member **Chris Antoine**.

Just prior to the reception, TGHS President **John LoCascio** chaired the Annual Members Meeting. The membership approved the 2009-2010 Budget and elected Directors for the coming year. Incumbent Board members **Greg Grammer**, **Margaret Hammond** and **Marcia Hanford** were re-elected to new two-year terms. First-time candidates **Scott Lowe**, **Peter Rusch** and **Lorna Vartanian** were also elected. **Edna Karinski**, executive director of the Community Fund of the Verdugos, presented a check of last year's earnings in the amount of \$660 from the Historical Society Fund.

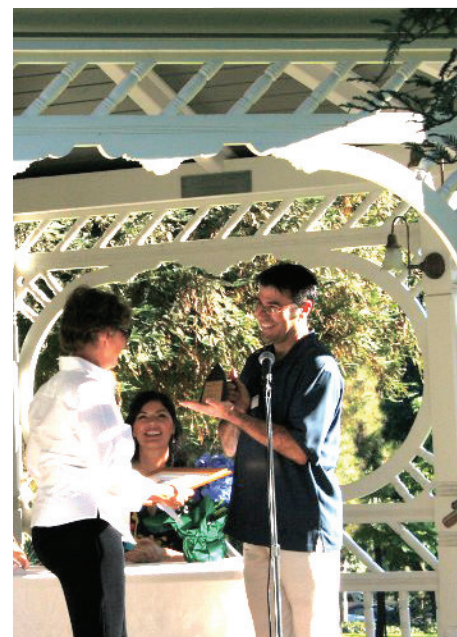
After the election, the President, along with Vice-President Greg Grammer, presented the Society's annual service and preservation awards. Retiring Board members **Judy Cabrera** and **Isabelle Meyer** received Service Awards in appreciation of their many years of volunteer work at the Doctors House and on the Board. **Merry Franzen**, **Anna Rundle** and **Emily Williams** were also recognized for their years of service as lead docents. **George Chapjian**, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, received a preservation award for partnership efforts in the Cedar Heritage Garden, Adams Square Mini-Park, and the continued maintenance of

the Doctors House. Steve Zurn, Director of the Public Works Department, received a preservation award for his outstanding efforts in overseeing the seismic retrofit of the Municipal Services Building.

The **Zelia Blanton Award** was presented to former president **Arlene Vidor** in recognition of her outstanding efforts in preservation advocacy during her nine years on the TGHS Board, six as president. And a special Lifetime Service Award was presented to founding member and former president **Carole Dougherty**, for her 30 years of continuous service to TGHS (please see accompanying article on page 3).

TGHS was honored with the presence of many long-time and founding members who made a special effort to attend the anniversary celebration and exhibit. All enjoyed a sunny summer day shared with good friends and good memories.





CLOCKWISE from the top: Guests enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres on the lawn of the Doctors House.

Nearly 100 people attended.

Larry Meyer and Sid Gordon enjoy a quiet moment.

John LoCascio presents Doctors House curator Isabelle Meyer with a vintage "sad" iron reflecting TGHS sentiments on her retirement.

Doctors House restoration volunteer Dick Brouillard finds himself in a photo display.

Jason Hemmens and his saxophone add grace to the event.

Adams Square Mini-Park project manager Hagop Kassabian takes time out for his daughter, our youngest guest.

TGHS presidents—past and present—reunited at the celebration: Bill Shepherd, Arlene Vidor, John LoCascio, Andrea Humberger and Carole Dougherty.

Docent for 25 years and treasurer for six, Judy Cabrera received a framed award and a vintage toy cash register commemorating her years of service.

Project Manager Layla Bettar and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director George Chapjian accept an award for the Cedar Heritage Garden.

DOCTORS HOUSE NEWS

Doctors House Museum

by Sonia Montejano

The Glendale Historical Society operates the Doctors House Museum only through the help of dedicated volunteers. It is our pleasure to introduce the newest members to the Doctors House Docent Guild:



GERARD MARIN has over 20 years experience in interior design. For nearly a decade he partnered and managed The Dale Emporium, a high-end antique store and design studio. He has a special interest in the Victorian Era. In recent years, Gerard has worked in the film and television industry where he has proven his talents as an art director, set and production designer.

LORNA VARTANIAN - TGHS Treasurer. Please see page 1 for more about Lorna.



SUSAN WOLFSON is a Los Angeles native and a UCLA graduate (anthropology) and holds M.S. degrees in public health and accountancy and taxation. Her interest in architecture and historical structures dates back to her undergraduate college days. Susan has a special interest in vintage medical instruments. She has been a member of TGHS for two years, and has volunteered at various events. She is looking forward to leading tours of the Doctors House.

Candlelight Tour and Victorian Ornaments



The Doctors House will be open for the yearly evening Candlelight Tours on two Saturdays: December 12 and 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The House Museum, located in Brand Park, will provide an opportunity to feel the joy of the season with its decorations of authentic Victorian ornaments and greenery, placed

under the artistic direction of interior designer and docent Gerard Marin.

Before the electric bulb, only candles and kerosene lamps illuminated the house. Rare and collectible antique kerosene lamps from the private collection of Craig Lighthizer will be on display. The House will appear as it did at the turn of the century. Craig and his wife Leyla have been long time friends of the Doctors House, and each year they dress in Victoriana fashion to enhance the ambiance during the Candlelight Tours.

WISH LIST

Yes, even the Doctors House has a "Wish List" for Santa. The Doctors House was saved and restored by the people of Glendale nearly thirty years ago. The present condition of the Doctors House is a reflection of the generosity of fellow Glendaleans. It is time to upgrade and refresh the furnishings of the House with fine examples of Glendale heirlooms. You can make

- Silver Tea Set Service
- Butcher Block
- Lawyer's Bookcase
- Regina Music Box
- China Buffet

tax deductible donations of funds for acquisitions or donate actual vintage items on the "Wish List."

Please contact TGHS at doctorshouse@glendalehistorical.org

Welcome New and Renewing Members and Members who have Upgraded

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)
David B. Ahern (R)
Milena Dostanich (N)
Eva A. Fonnet (N)
Greg Grammer & Simon Wright (R)
Nancy Hathaway (N)
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk, Rossmoyne
Property Management (R)
John LoCascio & David Brooks (R)
Scott Lowe (R)
Joseph & Mary Lou Montagna (N)
Sonia & Hector Montejano (U)
Lorna Vartanian (U)
William & Leann Warner (R)

SUSTAINING (\$50)
Howard Anderson (R)
Jeri Anderson (U)
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Clauss, Jr. (R)
Shirley Ann Hill (U)
Doyle Kutch (R)
Eileen & John Manus (R)
Vrej Mardian (R)
Vic & Barbara Pallos (R)
Donald & Beatrice Penniall (R)
Byron & Louise Peebles (U)
Studio for Southern California History (N)

N - New Member
R - Renewing Member
U - Upgrading Members

FAMILY/DUAL (\$40)
Jamie & Polly Anderson (N)
Chris & Eric Antoine (N)
Paul & Marshall Ayers (R)
Rosemarie & John Barraza (R)
Ken Batchelor & Leticia Gonzalez (R)
Dan & Judy Cabrera (R)
Rima & Donnell Cameron (R)
Robert & Edwina Carnahan (R)
Doris Dash & Dorothy Dash (U)
Brian & Diane Davies (R)
Lyn Foster & Glenn Webb (N)
Richard & Carol Lee (R)
Alan Loomis (N)
Patrica Messina & Terrance Hines (R)
Larry & Isabelle Meyer (R)
Tammi & Craig Relyea (N)
Stephanie Schus & Joe Russin (N)

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)
Ute Baum (R)
Jennifer Bentson-Gebel (N)
Richard Bloch (R)
Ruth Campbell (R)
Judy Farris-Phares (R)
Sid Gordon (R)
William Housos (R)
Ginny Johnston (N)
Jack Kandel (R)
Renee Leask (R)
Kim MacLeod (N)
Gerard Marin (N)
Josephine Moukhtar (R)
Daniel T. Munoz (R)
Kelly O'Connor (N)
Charles Perry (R)
Marilyn (Mimi) Plutae (R)
Ruth Priest (R)
Stephanie Reich (R)
Patty Silversher (N)
Lynn Theard (N)
Susan Wolfson (R)
Katherine Yamada (R)

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)
Philip Aker (N)
Karen Bartl-Grammer (R)
Virgina Bengston (R)
Albert & Denise Cartwright (N)
Shirley Darling (R)
Dan & Judy Ferrell (R)
Merry Franzen (R)
Mary Rose Grim (R)
Charla B Janeck (R)
Anne Leichtfried (R)
Richard Lovick (R)
Laura Lovick (R)
Sheila Murray (N)
Marilyn Oliver (R)
Mary Ann Prelock (R)
Terry Richman (R)
Diane Spurlock (R)
Frank & Bonnie Tortorelli (R)
Alice Wallis (R)
Pat Wright (R)
Odette Zakarian (R)
Mary Underwood (R)
Sandra Weggeland (R)

NONPROFIT (\$35)
Days of Verdugo (N)

**PAST PRESIDENTS
LIFE MEMBERSHIP**
Deborah Dentler
Carole Dougherty
Andrea Humberger
Marie Luft
Steve Preston
Bill Shepherd
David Smith
Arlene Vidor

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

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)

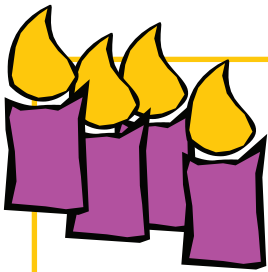
Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/Zip _____ Email Address _____

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

- Preservation advocacy
- Special events/Tours
- Historic Districting
- Outreach/Education
- Fundraising
- Doctors House volunteers
- Historic research/Surveys
- Archiving/Organizing
- Membership/Outreach



CANDLELIGHT TOURS

Doctors House Museum

1601 West Mountain Street
Glendale California 91201

The Victorian house will be decorated with greenery, antique ornaments and illuminated only by kerosene lamps and candles.

Saturdays

December 12 and 19, 2009

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Continuous tours

Refreshments

No reservations needed

\$2 donation

Holiday related items
for sale

Regular Tours:

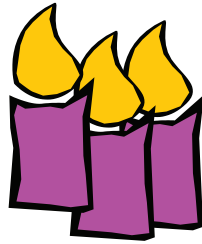
Sundays

December 6, 13 and 20

2 - 4 pm

CLOSED

December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010



Presented by
The Glendale Historical Society · Post Office Box 4173 · Glendale CA 91202
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SERVICE AWARD continued from page 3

needed to present in those initial years of the Society's organization—a calm and reassuring presence who advocated for preservation with tact and diplomacy.”

That same spirit has kept Dougherty involved in the Society since her retirement as president almost 25 years ago. Her impeccable taste and sharp eye have been put to good use as graphic designer of our newsletters, postcards and event invitations. She and her husband Michael have opened their house for home tours. More importantly, she has been a trusted source of advice to each succeeding President and Board; her encouragement and enthusiasm have proven invaluable in all of the Society's endeavors.

The Board created the Lifetime Service Award this year to express our gratitude to Carole Dougherty. Without her vision and steady leadership the Society might not exist today. In her honor, the Carole Dougherty Award will serve as a tribute to her contributions and as an inspiration to all who follow in fighting to preserve Glendale's history and architectural heritage.



treated to a rare glimpse inside one of Glendale's most spectacular buildings. The Assistance League of Glendale graciously allowed TGHS to use their headquarters, located at 314 E. Harvard Street, as the starting point of the tour.

Designed in 1928 by prominent Glendale architect Alfred F. Priest, the unique Romanesque Revival building was originally home to the Kiefer & Eyerick Mortuary. The architectural style is a resurrection of the early medieval style that once dominated Western Europe, as characterized by massive articulated wall structures, round arches and heavy vaults.

The Kiefer & Eyerick building features a richly textured brick veneer, interspersed with clinker bricks; a combination of round and slightly pointed arches with stone voussoirs and ribbing; a steeply pitched slate roof; and a buttressed, crenellated entrance tower topped by carved stone coping and an octagonal spire. Inside, the reception room boasts a beautiful paneled and stenciled ceiling, while the former chapel features a wood truss ceiling and original stained glass windows.

The Assistance League has owned and occupied the building since 2002. The building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Great Place to Start

Those who attended this year's Home Tour not only got to view the interior of six architecturally significant homes in each of the City's three historic districts, they were also