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# The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage

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Winter 2010



Sid Gordon at the Doctors House circa 2006

## in memory of Sid Gordon

By John LoCascio

Longtime TGHS supporter Sid Gordon passed away unexpectedly on October 4. He was 64 years old. Sid was born in Toronto and moved to the Crescenta Valley as a teenager. He was an early supporter of The Glendale Historical Society's efforts to preserve the Doctors House and was a regular of the volunteer work parties that restored the house to its original 1890s appearance. Former TGHS President Marie Luft remembers Sid bringing one of his antique Victrolas to the Doctors House and playing records to entertain the volunteers. Sid was also a founding member of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley.

Sid was fortunately able to join us in September to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the relocation of the Doctors House and reunite with several other former volunteers. We at TGHS sincerely regret his passing and offer our condolences to his family.



Marty Bracciotti has joined the TGHS Board to complete Scott Lowe's remaining term. He was elected to serve as secretary filling the position previously held by Elaine Wilkerson.

## New Board Member & Election of Officers

By Joe Selph

The 2010-2011 Board of Directors held their first meeting and election of officers on October 5th at the Goode House. The new Board of Directors voted unanimously for Marty Bracciotti to complete the unfinished term of Scott Lowe who, following the Annual Membership Meeting, notified the board that he would be unable to complete his term and offered his resignation. The Nominating Committee had previously identified Marty as a candidate for the Board, and he was pleased to fill this unexpected vacancy.

Marty also serves as a director for the Adams Hill Neighborhood Association and is known for his tenacity in taking on developers of non-conforming projects. He became a fan of TGHS when he learned the Society was instrumental in having the Googie facade of the former Algamac's Restaurant incorporated into a new development. Marty is a Senior Court Analyst for the U.S. Courts in downtown Los Angeles.

The Board of Directors unanimously elected John LoCascio as President, Greg Grammer as Vice President, and Lorna Vartanian as Treasurer, positions they held in the prior year. Marty Bracciotti was unanimously elected as Secretary, filling the position previously held by Elaine Wilkerson. Please wish our new Board continued success in the new year!

# President's Message

## What have you done for TGHS lately?

I realize that sounds a bit harsh. But the end of the year is a good opportunity for each of us to reflect on what we have contributed to the Society and to the cause of historic preservation in Glendale in 2010, and what we can do to increase our contribution.

I mean not only financial contributions (although those are always welcome!) but the contribution of your time as well. Your

Check out the  
"How to"  
box on page 8  
for ideas on how  
to enjoy your  
TGHS  
membership  
even more...

membership checks, while greatly appreciated and absolutely necessary to keep the Society afloat, are simply not enough. We desperately need our members to actively participate in our efforts to protect our neighborhoods and conserve Glendale's heritage.

Each month, as the Board reviews the membership roster, the same thought crosses my mind as I peruse the list of names: "Who are these people?" I recognize a small group of active members, but many are unfamiliar to me and to the rest of the Board because they don't participate. They don't attend events, they don't volunteer, they don't speak up on preservation issues. They must expect that someone else will take care of it all. Well, I've got news for you: the "someone else" needs to be you.

We all have a litany of excuses: work, school, kids, parents, soccer games, car trouble, housework, alien

abduction... okay, we haven't heard the alien abduction excuse yet, but it's only a matter of time. But here's another piece of news for you: we all have busy lives and too many things to do. But if we care about preservation - our neighborhoods, our built environment, our quality of life - we need to make the effort to spare a few hours occasionally to promote our cause. And it's not just about sharing the work load or raising funds; when we publicly participate, we send a strong message to the wider community that preservation matters. This is the single most valuable contribution our members can make.

We put a lot of time and effort into our advocacy and events, and we try to give plenty of advance notice for scheduling. So, next year, make it a point to pencil us in. Attend our lectures, walking tours and annual home tour; if the topic doesn't interest you, come anyway - you might be surprised. Volunteer to help for an hour or a day - just once. You might like it. And if you don't, there are plenty of other ways you can help. Forward our messages to your neighbors. Invite them to attend our events and urge them to join TGHS if they share your concerns about preserving our neighborhoods. Talk to them about historic districts and window replacement. Write to the News-Press and voice your support on preservation issues. Send an e-mail to a City Council member once in a while to remind them that you care about the quality of our built environment. You'll find that it's not that hard, it doesn't take that much time and it can be not only gratifying, but fun.

So enjoy your holidays, and I mean it literally when I say that I'll look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

*John LoCascio*

Winter 2010

## THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Effective to  
October 1, 2011

#### PRESIDENT

John LoCascio  
john.locascio@glendalehistorical.org

#### VICE PRESIDENT

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Greg Grammer  
greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org

#### SECRETARY

Marty Bracciotti  
martyjoe@sbcglobal.net

#### TREASURER

Lorna Vartanian  
lorna.vartanian@glendalehistorical.org

#### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Marcia Hanford  
marcia.hanford@glendalehistorical.org

#### MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Victoria Lasken  
victorialasken@charter.net

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Hammond  
Scott Lasken  
scott@stratagemdesigninc.com

#### Joe Selph

hocuspocus@msn.com

#### LIASON TO BOARD

DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR  
Sonia Montejano  
sonia.montejano@glendalehistorical.org

#### NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Carole Dougherty  
czdougherty@sbcglobal.net

#### CONTRIBUTORS

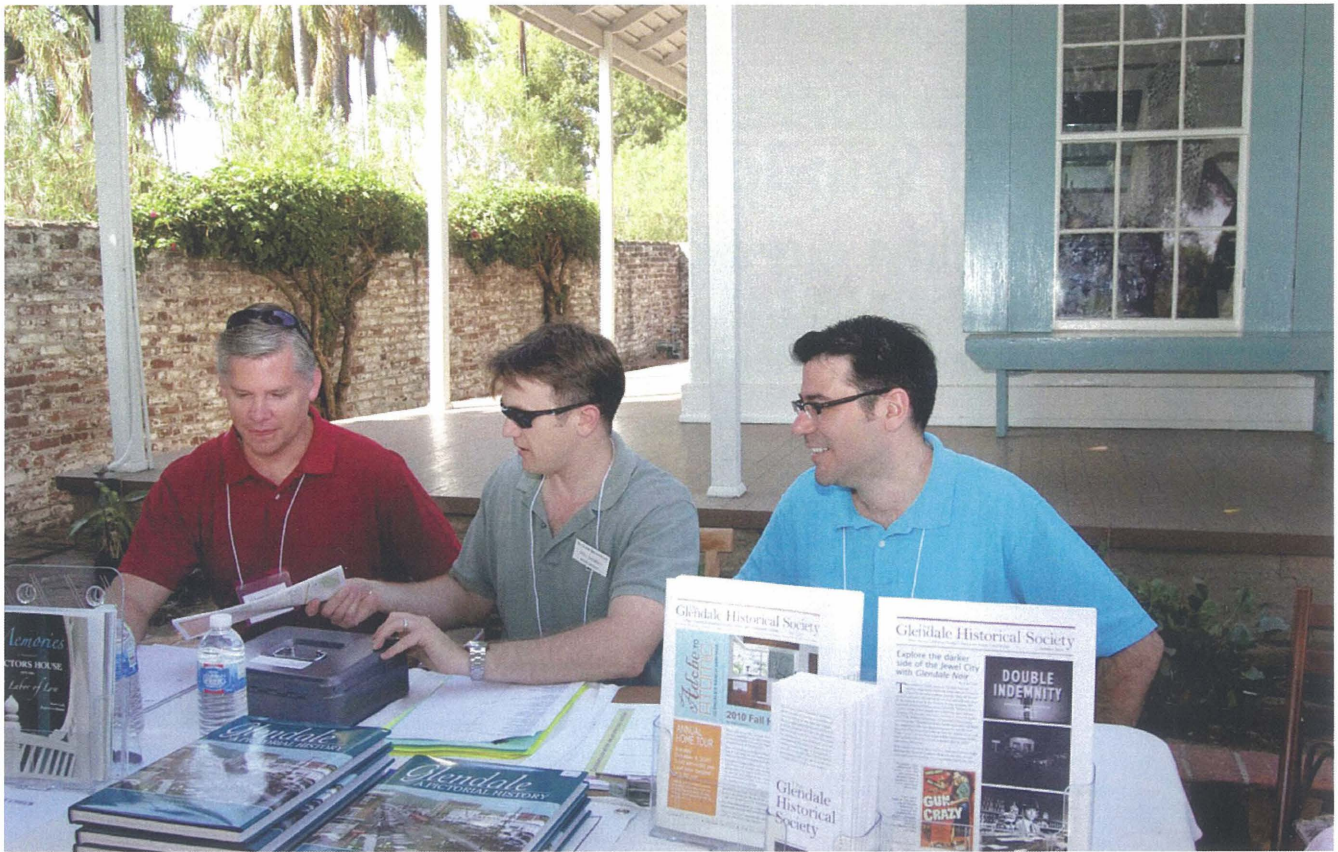
Marty Bracciotti  
Greg Grammer  
Marcia Hanford  
Scott Lasken  
Victoria Lasken  
John LoCascio  
Sonia Montejano  
Joe Selph  
Lorna Vartanian

#### Write us at:

TGHS  
Post Office Box 4173  
Glendale CA 91202

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

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



Photos: Arlene Vidor

Matthew Clark, Greg Grammer and John LoCascio prepare to sell tickets to the Home Tour at Casa Adobe de San Rafael. On the right: Two of the homes on the tour.

# Adobe to Atomic Home Tour

By Marty Bracciotti

The Glendale Historical Society held its annual Fall Home Tour on October 4. This year's tour, "Adobe to Atomic: Glendale's Ranch Heritage" began at the Casa Adobe de San Rafael, one of the oldest buildings in Glendale, and traced the development of the California Ranch house from its roots in Spanish colonial rancho days to the "atomic" age of the 1950s and '60s. Four stunning Ranch-style houses demonstrated the forward-looking design that typified Southern California in the mid-20th century. Each of the tour homes had the wonderful elements that made ranch-style homes a national trend, such as many large windows that blur the separation between indoors and outdoors, space-age design elements, natural stone, and lush California gardens. TGHS thanks those who opened their beautiful homes for the tour, as well as the docents and the several other volunteers that made this event possible. Many people taking the tour were inspired to join TGHS. Stay tuned for our 2011 annual tour—TGHS is already working on the theme. To view the Adobe to Atomic photo album, please visit our website at [www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org) and click the Past Events link on our Calendar of Events page.



## SCOTT'S VIEW ON WINDOWS

# Why It Is Important to Preserve Your Wood Windows

(or what the vinyl guy won't tell you!)

By Scott Lasken

**W**hen my wife, Victoria, and I purchased our first home we were originally attracted to the Glendale area for its peaceful tree-lined streets and our desire for a Spanish Colonial style home. We also thought it would be a good real estate investment due to Glendale's close proximity to Los Angeles.

One of the reasons we decided to join The Glendale Historical Society was that we have noticed the facades of some of the loveliest historical homes in Glendale losing their original beauty and charm, and that, unfortunately, many Glendale residents have installed unsightly vinyl replacement windows.

Original windows are one of the most important architectural features of any home. Have you ever heard the saying "The eyes are the windows to the soul"? Well, the windows are the "soul" of your historical home! Remove them and you are removing a huge part of what appealed to you in the first place!

Once this cycle of ripping out and replacing begins it will continue for the remainder of the home's life. The windows end up in a landfill, or ironically, are sold by salvage companies back to consumers who are restoring their homes!

In the long run these windows cost more than you think! Replacement window manufacturers and salesmen, unfortunately, have convinced homeowners to replace their wood windows in the name of energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. Of course they are not going to tell you that your windows can be repaired! They are selling vinyl windows. They will not tell you any of the drawbacks to vinyl windows, only the pluses, which in my opinion are non-existent.

Windows account only for approximately 20% of a home's heat loss. Insulating your attic and walls is a far better use of your money. Only a small percentage of a single-pane window's heat loss is through the glass itself. Air infiltration around the windows accounts for the remainder - so have the windows tightened up and plug the gaps.

•If you own a home with wood windows in Glendale, there is a good chance that they have been there for 50 years or more - vinyl replacement windows have only been in existence since the 1980s, and already there is overwhelming evidence that they are failing at an alarming rate. They may come with a "Lifetime Guarantee" but will the company still be around should you have a problem in the future? A properly maintained wood window can last for a 100 years or more and can be repaired or fine-tuned to operate correctly. A failing vinyl window cannot be repaired - it would have to be completely replaced. No savings there!

•Wood windows are sustainable. What does that mean? Your wood windows have already been made and the energy to manufacture them has already been used - they are made of materials natural to the environment and are renewable. Vinyl windows are created through a toxic manufacturing process, are not repairable, and take up precious landfill space when they are inevitably thrown away.

The manufacture of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is one of the most toxic production processes around. Dioxin is formed when PVC is manufactured and when it is burned. Dioxin is a carcinogen and among the most toxic chemicals known. Firefighting has become a serious problem at vinyl encased homes. The windows may not be toxic while in use, but they are definitely toxic to manufacture and toxic to trash.

You may be asking yourself what you can do about this problem and I have a couple of suggestions:

**GET YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**



An unsightly vinyl replacement of the glass and the lack of muntins. These windows ruin the property.



Original wood windows preserve the architecture. They are a



Replacement window with interior muntins (dividers). Notice the warp of shadowing that would be created by original wood windows. Lack of character, do not fit the style of the home and devalue



They add character and value to a home. They fit the original GREEN and can be maintained for many, many years.

In addition to advocating for the preservation of our homes, neighborhoods and historic buildings, we have a lot of fun throughout the year and have some great upcoming events planned for 2011! We have learned so much about Glendale's rich history and find it refreshing to have become friends with so many interesting and like-minded individuals!

#### EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

In my research for this article, I found a vast amount of information on the internet regarding window preservation at The National Trust for Historical Preservation website: <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization>.

Window replacements do require a permit, so if you see any suspect window replacements in progress, please call Glendale Neighborhood Services at 818-548-3700. and/or the 24-hour hotline for illegal activities at 818-550-4400.

Scott Lasken, recently elected to the Board of The Glendale Historical Society, is a graphic designer.

**Windows account only for approximately 20% of a home's heat loss. Insulating your attic and walls is a far better use of your money. Only a small percentage of a single-pane window's heat loss is through the glass itself. Air infiltration around the windows accounts for the remainder - so have the windows tightened up and plug the gaps.**

### **Seeking Submissions for Quarterly Newsletter**

Do you have a good idea or an interesting story for a future TGHS newsletter article? TGHS is now accepting article submissions on issues that pertain to Glendale's history or architectural heritage for its quarterly newsletter. If you would like to contribute, please contact President John LoCascio at [john.locascio@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:john.locascio@glendalehistorical.org)

# ALL ABOARD

FOR  
THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Please come and Celebrate  
the Holidays with us! (Members Only)

Sunday, December 5th 4-6 pm

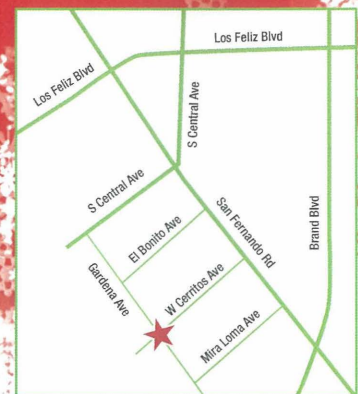
The Southern Pacific Train Depot  
400 W. Cerritos Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91204

The Glendale Train Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival Station has been in continuous use since its opening in the 1920s. It underwent a complete restoration in 1999 and currently services Amtrak, Metrolink, and Greyhound passengers.

TGHS Members will be allowed 'behind the scenes' to tour the original baggage area with its 1920s scales, not open to the general public. Experience this unique opportunity to tour one of Glendale's national historic treasures!

RSVP by Nov. 30:  
[events@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:events@glendalehistorical.org) or 818-242-7447



# DOCTORS HOUSE news

By Sonia Montejano

As the year comes to an end, we look back and acknowledge the donations made to the Doctors House by fellow Glendalians who know the value of preservation.

## WEDDING DRESS

Gretchen Sprague wanted her mother's wedding dress to be seen rather than forgotten. Her parents, Grace Ireland and Alden, married on August 10, 1904. The handmade gown is a wonderful addition to the Vintage Clothing Collection.

## MEDICAL BOOK

Retired Glendale physician of 40 years, Dr. Earle D. Acker stopped by the museum one Sunday afternoon to leave a cherished book he had used during his years of practice, an 1899 edition of *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*.

## SILK TAFFETA DRESS

Donna Mills wanted her family heirloom vintage dress, circa 1860, to become part of the museum's Vintage Clothing Collection, where it would be displayed and admired by many.

## WOOD AND IVORY SHELVES

Former Curator Isabelle Meyer continues to place her signature on the Victorian style house museum. She enjoys shopping for rare antiques, and when she came across a shelf unit studded with ivory knobs, she knew just where it would fit in the house.

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

This past Summer John Manus was cleaning the basement of his 1903 home on Wilson Ave. when he found various household and pharmaceutical items of interest. As he sorted through them, he thought of the Doctors House Museum, which he had visited many years before, and knew the museum would be the perfect new location for the numerous vintage items he came to find. The items ranged from whooping cough sample pills to wax for dancing floors, circa 1890's. They now sit on the museum's pantry shelves and at arms reach on the doctor's desk, helping the house look even more like it would have in 1900.

## CLASSIC BOOKS

Present Curator and Lead Docent Dorothy Sundbye is a retired school teacher and has a great appreciation for literature. She noticed the house museum lacked in books not related to medicine and decided to donate books that had been in her family. The house now boasts such classics as *Gulliver's Travels* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and poems by Robert Browning, 1872 edition.



# WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS September 2010- October 2010

## VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Shannon Cistulli - N  
Milena Dostanich - U  
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk  
(Rossmoyne Properties, Inc.) - U

## TROPICO PATRON (\$100)

Howard Anderson - U  
David B. Ahern - R  
John LoCascio & David Brooks - R  
Shirley Ann Hill - U

## SUSTAINING (\$50)

Jeri Anderson - R  
Sonia Montejano - R  
Sheila Murray - U  
Mirna Stanley - N  
Lorna Vartanian - R  
FAMILY/DUAL (\$40)  
Eric Atwater - N  
Rosemarie & John Barraza - R  
Ken Batchelor &  
Leticia Gonzalez - R  
Arlet & Harach Davoodian - N  
Sandra Goff - N  
Cindy Holland - N  
Reinard & Aida Knur  
Joseph & Mary Lou Montagna - R

Brian Snedeker - N  
Alex Solbes &  
Jasmine Dashtizad - N  
Joe & Stephanie Valle - N  
Alice Wallis - R

## INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Kent Chesney - N  
Judy Farris-Phares - R  
Eva & Bill Fonnet - R  
Lyn Foster & Glenn Webb - R  
Renee Leask - R  
Marguerite Lincoln - N  
Gerard Marin - R  
Elsa Morley - N  
Alen Malekian - R  
Josephine Moukhtar - R  
Daniel T. Muñoz  
(Associated Historical  
Societies) - R  
Marilyn (Mimi) Plutae - R  
Ruth Priest - R  
Patty Silversher - R  
Susan Sylvis - N  
Lynn Theard & Scott Peer - R  
Katherine Yamada - R

## SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Don Corbett - R  
Gabriella Doyle - N  
Patricia de la Peña - N  
Mary Jo Ferrell - R  
Victoria Gorjian - R  
Beverly Heyler - N  
Anne Leichtfried - R  
Mary Ellen Naldjian - N  
Marilyn Oliver - R  
Margorie Schilling - N  
Doris Tokes - N  
PAST PRESIDENTS  
Deborah Dentler  
Carole Dougherty  
Andrea Humberger  
Marie Luft  
Steve Preston  
Bill Shepherd  
David Smith  
Arlene Vidor

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

**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?

Preservation advocacy

Historic Districting

Fundraising

Special events/Tours

Outreach/Education

Doctors House volunteers

Historic research/Surveys

Archiving/Organizing

Membership/Outreach





**CANDLELIGHT  
TOURS**  
OF THE  
**DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM**  
**December 11 and 18, 2010**  
**6:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**Refreshments and music**  
**\$2.00 donation suggested**

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



**Find us on  
Facebook**

Find The Glendale Historical Society on Facebook and stay up to date with all the latest happenings, meet other TGHS members with similar interests, and share your views!



**HERE'S HOW TO  
ENJOY TGHS MORE**

- 1** **HELP**  
set up for our holiday party on December 5.
- 2** **BECOME**  
a Doctors House Docent
- 3** **JOIN**  
our Preservation Advocacy, Events or Membership & Outreach Committees
- 4** **SUBMIT**  
a newsletter article
- 5** **RESEARCH**  
historic properties for possible landmark designation

Leave a message at 818-242-7447 or email [events@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:events@glendalehistorical.org)

**THE  
GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

**T**he Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment fund which benefits the Glendale Historical Society in perpetuity. The endowment was established by former TGHS treasurer Richard Montgomery and grew considerably after a bequest by former TGHS president Dr. Robert Newcomb. An anonymous donor contributes yearly. Contributions to the fund are invested by the Community Foundation and earnings are distributed annually to benefit the Glendale Historical Society's ongoing programs and efforts toward historic preservation. Donations can be made in the form of a bequest or in the spirit of "giving while you're living." If you would like to watch an organization you believe in reap the benefits of your generosity, please consider making a contribution today that will last for all time!

[www.glendalecommunityfoundation.org](http://www.glendalecommunityfoundation.org)  
330 Arden Avenue, Suite 130  
Glendale CA 91203  
(818) 241-8040  
[info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org](mailto:info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org)