

---

# The Glendale Historical Society

Conserving Glendale's Heritage Summer 2011

---



The former recording studio at 230 S. Orange Street, built in 1928, is a late example of the Mission Revival style of architecture. Caruso Affiliated will incorporate the distinctive brick façade into the design of the proposed new Nordstrom department store.

By John LoCascio

## FAÇADE TO BE INCORPORATED INTO AMERICANA

This past April The Glendale Historical Society (TGHS) reached an agreement with Caruso Affiliated to relocate the west façade of the former recording studio located at 230 S. Orange Street, acquired by Caruso for the expansion of the Americana at Brand. Caruso Affiliated will incorporate the distinctive brick façade into the design of the proposed new Nordstrom department store, along a pedestrian passageway to be created between Colorado Boulevard and Caruso Avenue. The façade's original steel sash windows will be retained and will become showcases for TGHS to install photographic images from Glendale's past. Caruso Affiliated will also install illuminated display boxes along the passageway where TGHS can promote special events and program exhibits about the history of the City of Glendale and its architecture.

The former recording studio, built in 1928, is a late example of the Mission Revival style of architecture that was popular in California from the 1880s into the 1920s. The building displays features modeled on those of California's Franciscan missions, including a curved parapet or *espadaña* and concrete-capped buttresses. Mission Revival-style buildings, particularly commercial examples, are extremely rare in

Glendale; this is the only remaining commercial example in downtown Glendale and possibly in the entire city. As such, TGHS wrote to the Glendale Redevelopment Agency to urge that the building, which had never been surveyed as a potential historic resource, be rehabilitated and incorporated into the Americana expansion.

While this solution may not be applicable to other potentially significant structures in the city, TGHS agrees that relocating and restoring the façade as part of the expansion of the Americana at Brand is the best possible solution in this particular instance. The façade is the most visually significant element of the existing building. Relocating and incorporating it into the proposed new building will maintain the original materials and orientation as the centerpiece of the historical display along the new pedestrian walkway, while allowing Caruso Affiliated the floor space required for the new Nordstrom department store.

TGHS will continue to work with Caruso Affiliated and the City of Glendale on the design of the pedestrian walkway and the new Nordstrom building, scheduled for completion in the fall of 2013.

# President's Message

This summer here at TGHS is proving to be much quieter than last; we were sadly unable to repeat our popular film screenings at Brand Park due to budget cuts in the Community Services and Parks Department. Such a shame, as last year's "Glendale Noir" series was a huge success, with as many as 100 people gathered on the lawn in front of the Doctors House to watch three classic Glendale-themed *noir* films under the stars of a summer night. It was especially fun to watch Joan Crawford in the title role of 1945's *Mildred Pierce* and enjoy the audience's raucous reaction to Mildred's daughter, the pretentious, vile Veda, and her constant put-downs of Glendale: "this town and its Dollar Days, and its women that wear uniforms and its men that wear overalls!"

The exchange pointed up an unfortunate fact: the architectural gems of the Jewel City remain largely unknown to outsiders, and even to many of Glendale's own residents. One of the ways we can counter this ignorance is through our annual home tours.

The character of Veda embodies Glendale's traditional inferiority complex, particularly in comparison to neighboring Pasadena, that was one of the major sub-themes of *Mildred Pierce*. And that pernicious, perceived inferiority persists to this day. Vice President Greg Grammer and I got a taste of it this spring on Pasadena Heritage's tour of Wallace Neff houses. A volunteer at one of the spectacular homes approached us to solicit membership in Pasadena Heritage; upon discovering that we were the president and vice president of The Glendale Historical Society, she blurted out, very Veda-like: "Glendale? What's historic about Glendale?"

Instead of slapping her the way Mildred slapped Veda - which was tempting - Greg and I launched into a description of Glendale's wonderful historic architecture: the adobes, the Doctors House, the Air Terminal, the Alex Theatre and, most of all, our beautiful residential neighborhoods of Craftsman, period-revival and mid-20th century modern homes. Maddening as it was, the exchange pointed up an unfortunate fact: the architectural gems of the Jewel City remain largely unknown to outsiders, and even to many of Glendale's own residents.

One of the ways we can counter this ignorance is through our annual home tours. By opening up Glendale's historic homes, through the generosity of their owners, we not only raise much-needed funds for TGHS, we also can demonstrate the variety and richness of Glendale's architectural heritage. This year's tour on October 2 will showcase several superb homes, including designs by renowned architects like Paul R. Williams and Glendale's own Merrill Baird. But in order for the tour to succeed, we need our members to support it by attending *en masse* themselves and by bringing along their neighbors, friends and family members too. The more people who attend the tour and learn about Glendale's historic homes and neighborhoods, the better our chances of preserving them for future generations. And what better way to spend a lovely autumn Sunday than enjoying with friends the beautiful designs and exceptional craftsmanship of some of Glendale's finest homes?

A few more *Mildred*-related tidbits: The little Spanish house used for exterior filming in the original *Mildred Pierce* still stands on North Jackson Street, albeit with vinyl windows (don't get me started). But the producers of HBO's recent remake claimed they had to film the miniseries in upstate New York because there weren't any intact, 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival-style neighborhoods in Glendale.

Enough said. If that doesn't motivate you to get out there and do your part to help us make this year's home tour a huge success, nothing will.

*John LoCascio*

## THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Board of Directors

Effective to  
October 3, 2011

### PRESIDENT

John LoCascio  
president@glendalehistorical.org

### VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Grammer  
greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org

### SECRETARY

Marty Bracciotti  
marty.bracciotti@glendalehistorical.org

### TREASURER

Sean Bersell  
sean.bersell@glendalehistorical.org

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Marcia Hanford  
marcia.hanford@glendalehistorical.org

### MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

Victoria Lasken  
victoria.lasken@glendalehistorical.org

### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Scott Lasken  
scott.lasken@glendalehistorical.org

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Margaret Hammond

### Joe Selph

joel.selph@glendalehistorical.org

### DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR

Sonia Montejano  
sonia.montejano@glendalehistorical.org

### NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Carole Dougherty  
czdougherty@sbglobal.net

### CONTRIBUTORS

Marty Bracciotti  
Greg Grammer  
Marcia Hanford  
Scott Lasken  
John LoCascio  
Joe Selph

### 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



Former TGHS treasurer Lorna Vartanian has been appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission

## Historic Preservation Commission: Congratulations Lorna Vartanian

By John LoCascio

We are very pleased to announce that TGHS Treasurer Lorna Vartanian was appointed to the Glendale Historic Preservation Commission in June. She fills the seat vacated by longtime commissioner Vrej Mardian, who helped shepherd the city’s historic district ordinance and first three historic districts through the approval process.

While Commissioner Mardian will be missed, Lorna will be a tremendous asset to the HPC. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Art History from UCLA; has worked for the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice, Italy; and has more than 20 years of experience in law firm management in the area of finance and accounting. She is also the president of the Rossmoyne-Mountain Homeowners Association and has taken a leading role in the proposed Rossmoyne Historic District application.

The Board accepted Lorna’s resignation with decidedly mixed feelings. She is a joy to work with and has done an outstanding job as Treasurer; but we know that she will be an equally outstanding Historic Preservation Commissioner and look forward to continuing to work with her in preserving Glendale’s heritage.

Lorna was nearing completion of her first term on the TGHS Board and would have been up for reelection at our Annual Meeting in September. Her seat and position of Treasurer have been filled by longtime TGHS member Sean Bersell, who brings to the Board years of professional and volunteer experience in advocacy, communications, and community organizations.

### Update:

## Windows Task Force

By Scott Lasken

TGHS’s newly formed Windows Task Force (WTF) began with a bang May 22nd with a very well attended event at the Doctors House gazebo.

John LoCascio and master carpenter Alan Adams gave an excellent presentation to a large group of attendees who came from all over the Southland to hear the latest on the national epidemic of vinyl window replacement and watched a demonstration about how to restore and repair the original wooden windows of their homes.

The main points of interest presented were:

- Replacing your windows is not cost efficient in the long run
- Vinyl windows are not really “energy efficient”
- Vinyl windows are unsightly and incongruent on older homes
- Vinyl windows will fail within time and the original windows can last hundreds of years if properly taken care of (case in point – the Doctors House)
- Vinyl windows will reduce the resale value of an historical home as well as historic neighborhoods
- Vinyl window salesmen have been known to give erroneous, misleading information to customers
- Vinyl windows are bad for our environment

The Windows Task Force will be giving more presentations in the future and welcomes your questions as well as inquiries to speak at homeowners association meetings to spread the word about repair and restoration of windows.



The before and after photos of traditional three-light window sash



*A Taste of Spain*  
IN HISTORIC  
GLENDALE



Photos top to bottom:  
Anna Rundle and Merry Franzen.  
Hosts Rima and Donnell Cameron.  
Guests enjoy the ambience of the living room.

Article by Joe Selph  
Photos by Jeri Anderson  
A Taste of Spain flyer design, left,  
by Scott Lasken

“A TASTE OF SPAIN” held on April 30 was a rousing success! This members-only event was held at the beautiful home of Donnell and Rima Cameron. Their 1931 Spanish Colonial Revival home, also known as the Jernegan House, provided the perfect backdrop for an evening of tapas and sangria. More than 90 people attended this event, which also served as a membership drive for The Glendale Historical Society. Any member who brought a guest that joined at the door was admitted free of charge. As a result, we welcomed 19 new members that evening.

The gracious hosts put out a spectacular buffet of light appetizers and sangria from La Luna Negra, a tapas bar and restaurant located in Pasadena. Guests enjoyed such delights as Camarones Ahogados, consisting of black tiger shrimp glistening with lime juice, jalapenos, fresh cilantro and red onions, Tortilla Paisana, a traditional Spanish quiche filled with spinach, blue cheese, potatoes and onions, and Brochettes de Mozzarella, small skewers featuring hand-kneaded cheese paired with fresh tomato and basil, drizzled with a flavorful balsamic vinaigrette.

Many thanks to our hosts for opening up their stunning home and providing all of the food, beverage, and preparations. We also thank the numerous volunteers that staffed the event, and the members who joined us that evening to support the mission of our organization.



Photo: Simon Wright



Baird House, designed by renowned architect Paul R. Williams, will be one of the distinguished houses featured on this year's Home Tour on October 2.

## Fall Home Tour Featuring Homes on the Local Historic Register

By Greg Grammer

**M**ark your calendar! Our annual Fall Home Tour, which is shaping up to be one of the best yet, is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 2.

This year's Home Tour will showcase some of the most exceptional private homes in Glendale, including a remarkable 1926 Spanish Colonial Revival designed by prominent architect Paul R. Williams, a stunning 1936 Spanish Colonial Revival by Los Angeles architect William Barber, and an elegant 1936 American Colonial Revival by renowned local architect Merrill Baird.

All of the homes on this year's tour are listed on Glendale's Register of Historic Resources, and contain exemplary elements of architectural design, period details, and fine craftsmanship.

The Home Tour is The Glendale Historical Society's biggest fundraiser of the year.

Tickets are \$30 per person (\$20 for TGHS members) if purchased in advance of the tour. Online ticket sales will begin in August at [www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org). Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour for \$35 per person (\$25 for TGHS members).

**So, save the date, tell your friends and neighbors, and stay tuned for more details!!**

## Historic Bike Tour Back by Popular Demand!

By Marty Bracciotti

**T**he Glendale Historical Society, the Glendale Community Services and Parks Department, and the L.A. County Bicycle Coalition will be co-sponsoring another bike tour of historically significant buildings and neighborhoods in Glendale. Bikers will gather at the historic Glendale Train Station on Saturday, August 13 at 8:30 AM and depart at 9:00 AM sharp.

Experienced bike leaders Scott Lowe and Colin Bogart will lead the approximately 14-mile bike tour, with assistance from TGHS Secretary Marty Bracciotti. The route will take us along the Los Angeles River bike trail to the Grand Central Air Terminal (L.A.'s first airport), and on to other Glendale favorites, such as City Hall, the Goode House, the Richardson House (oldest wood home in Glendale), Cottage Grove, Adams Square, and the majestic gates to Forest Lawn (Glendale).

Bikers must wear helmets at all times, and bring water and a snack. Bikes must be in good working condition. Contact Marty at [marty.bracciotti@glendalehistorical.org](mailto:marty.bracciotti@glendalehistorical.org) with any questions. The bike tour is free to members and non-members. Rain cancels.

## Historic Bike Tour

Meet at

### Glendale Train Station

400 West Cerritos Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204

Enter from San Fernando Road

Saturday

August 13, 2011

8:30 am

# WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS March 2011 - May 2011

**JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)**  
Rima & Donnell Cameron - U  
Joseph M. Gossett - N  
Barry Switzer - N

**VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)**  
Bill & Elaine Wilkerson - R

**TROPICO PATRON (\$100)**  
Jonathan Avila - U  
Pamela Elyea - R  
Marcia Hanford - R  
Thomas McIntyre - R  
Mary Kay Prather - R  
Dennis Tesdell - U  
Larry Tison - R

**SUSTAINING (\$50)**  
Jane Brown & Gary Hart - R  
Norm & Evelyn Cecere - R  
Barbara Conry - R  
Brian Cornelius - N  
Timothy Foy - R  
Kelly O'Connor - U

**FAMILY/DUAL (\$40)**  
Gilbert & Ruth Brooks - N  
Jennifer Davis &  
Jonathan Salisbury - N  
Allan & Nancy Durham - N

Laura Friedman &  
Guillaume Lemoine - R  
Douglas & Cathy Green - R  
Shanna & Scott Igoe - R  
Curtis & Judee Kendall - R  
Dorothy Knisley - R  
Scott & Victoria Lasken - R  
John Lightner - N  
John & Kumiko Mayhew - N  
Thomas & Barbara Metzler  
Carl & Gail Nelson - R  
Victoria &  
Gamick Shabanian - N  
Jeffrey Smith - N  
Tanya & Andrew Steiner - N  
Jolene Taylor - R  
Caroline Tufenkian - N  
Sharon & William Weisman - R  
Ronoï Werner - N

**INDIVIDUAL (\$25)**  
Corliss Anderson-Cude - N  
Mary Baldwin - R  
Helen Bartosik - N  
Ute Baum - N  
Ruth Ellen Billion - N  
Doris Dash - R  
Teri Deaver - R  
Jeff Decker - N  
John Drayman - N

David F. Eisenberg - R  
George Ellison - R  
Marie Fish - U  
William Geist - N  
Dr. Gary Gilbert - N  
Ammar Kharouf - N  
Vivian Long - R  
Scott Lowe - R  
Sandra MacLennan - N  
Vrej Mardian - R  
Joan Morris - N  
Stacy Niss-Sartor - N  
Carol Rossow - U  
Richard Threlkeld - R  
William Troiano - R  
Brit Trydal - R  
Stephan Zupkas - R

**SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)**  
Ross Adams - R  
Minerva Astengo - R  
Patricia L. Bates - R  
Paula Babakhanloo - R  
Margaret Bickmore - R  
Jan Craig - R  
Daniel Fagan - N  
Shelley Filian - R  
Ronald L. Finely - N  
B. Jean Grill - N  
Herbert Jennings - R  
Eileen Mendoza - N

Bob Oliphant - R  
Dr. William Thomas - R  
D.D. Trent - N  
Faranak Van Patten - N  
Marjorie Vestuto - N  
Anita Weaver - R

**NON-PROFIT (\$35)**  
Assistance League of  
Glendale - R  
Chevy Chase Estates  
Association - R  
Historical Society of the  
Crescenta Valley - R

**PAST PRESIDENTS  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP**  
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

# 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

The  
Glendale Historical Society  
PO Box 4173  
Glendale CA 91202  
[www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org)

August 13 – 8:30 AM  
HISTORIC BIKE TOUR  
Starting from the  
Glendale Train Station

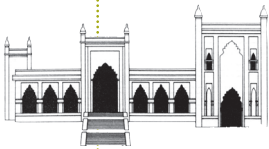


September 17 - 5-7 PM  
ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING  
Forest Lawn Museum Plaza



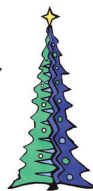
October 2  
HOME TOUR  
of homes listed on  
Glendale's Historic Register

December 10 and 17  
CANDLELIGHT TOURS  
Doctors House



December 11  
PRE-RENOVATION PARTY  
Last chance to enjoy  
Brand Library before  
closure

December 18  
HOLIDAY MEMBERS PARTY  
*McCall's* House  
a private residence on  
Glendale's Historic Register



The Doctors House **will be closed** for its annual July cleaning. The docents have been busy with Sunday visitors, including dozens who attended the **Windows Task Force workshop** and then toured the house on May 22. It was wonderful for guests to see 100+ year old windows on the Doctors House while learning that they can retain the windows on homes that are not nearly that old.

## The GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENDOWMENT FUND

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment to benefit The Glendale Historical Society. The Endowment was initiated by former TGHS treasurer Richard Montgomery. Since his death, a number of contributions have been made to our endowment fund. An especially large one was made to it by bequest of former president Dr. Robert Newcomb. An anonymous donor contributes yearly.

Please consider making a bequest in your will to the Community Foundation to benefit TGHS or make donations at any time.

Community Foundation of the Verdugos  
330 Arden Avenue, Suite 130  
Glendale, CA 91203

Phone: (818) 241-8040  
Fax: (818) 241-8045  
Email: [info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org](mailto:info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org)