



TGHS GALA & BENEFIT: A SWANKY SOIRÉE AT BARKER HOUSE



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA & BENEFIT

A SWANKY SOIRÉE AT BARKER HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023
6:00 - 10:00 PM

You are invited to The Glendale Historical Society's Gala & Benefit on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. This year's celebratory and fundraising event will be held at Barker House, a fabulous 1958 Mid-century Modern home with breathtaking city views. Designed by architect and builder Edward A. Kirtlan, Barker House is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

Join us for an evening under the stars with classic cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction fundraiser (live and online). Proceeds benefit TGHS's preservation efforts.

TGHS is thrilled to announce that Chris Nichols, historic preservationist and Senior Editor at *Los Angeles* magazine, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

TGHS will present awards in recognition of outstanding achievement in historic preservation to **Lorna Vartanian** and the **Museum of Neon Art (MONA)**. TGHS will also bestow the distinguished Marie Luft Award for Excellence in Stewardship of the Doctors House to **Peter Rusch**.

Tickets for the Gala & Benefit are available for TGHS members at \$150 and for nonmembers at \$175. Purchase tickets online at <https://bit.ly/3PgruQw>. To order by mail, please send a check to: TGHS, PO Box 4173, Glendale CA 91202. The event's address will be provided to confirmed attendees a few days prior to the Gala.

Be sure to RSVP by September 29. The Gala is black tie optional.

Thanks to this year's sponsors: Forest Lawn, The Walt Disney Company and G&C Properties. See you at the Gala!

TGHS Observes Bellehurst Centenary with Walking Tour

On May 20, Ani Mnatsakanyan led a large enthusiastic group on a walking tour of the pending Bellehurst Historic District, an architecturally diverse treasure trove. Appropriately, TGHS's first walking tour of 2023 coincided with the 100th anniversary of this neighborhood, established in 1923 by developer Walter H. Leimert, renowned for other developments including Leimert Park in Los Angeles.

Beginning at the corner of North Everett and Stocker, Mnatsakanyan pointed out the spectacular two-story Spanish Colonial Revivals, noting that corner homes were intentionally designed to be especially large and impressive, in order to entice people to want to live in the neighborhood anchored by such beauties.

A historic resource survey of Bellehurst is now being executed and TGHS expects completion by the end of summer. It will then go to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for approval before the last petition is circulated. If approved by City Council, Bellehurst will be the tenth historic district in Glendale.



A massive Moreton Bay fig tree dwarfs a Bellehurst residence

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PHOTO: Matthew Letcher

The Glendale Historical Society held its Annual Meeting at the Doctors House on July 15. Despite downright hot weather, it was heartwarming to see so many come out to bid farewell to outgoing Board Members and to welcome new ones. I would like to thank Jon Crook, Renée Leask and Hilary Sbei for their dedicated service.

They will be missed on the Board, but we are pleased that they will remain engaged with TGHS. I welcome Tom Provost, David VanTuyle and Taleen Barsoumian to the Board. We will all benefit from the additional depth and expertise they bring.

Board Secretary Nancy Oshima and her team enhanced the usual business program with guest speakers. Joemy Wilson spoke on the historic area of Glenwood and Bruce Merritt traced the history of Damon's on Brand Blvd. Based on very positive feedback, we will include opportunities to share Glendale history at subsequent annual meetings. This gathering provides an opportunity to network and meet with other TGHS members who share your passion for history and preservation in Glendale. If you haven't attended in prior years, I encourage you to join us next year!

As a preservation organization, our focus is primarily Glendale. However, since I have assumed the role of President, I've become acutely aware of how closely

preservation initiatives in Southern California are related to each other. Proposed anti-preservation ordinances in one city may spread to others. It's important that we keep in touch with such agenda items as they arise and advocate for their defeat. Collaborating with neighboring preservation groups also provides the opportunity to leverage resources and preservation expertise.

I'm happy to announce that TGHS has already worked with preservation advocates in surrounding cities to help fight implementation of unfavorable initiatives. For example, we expressed firm support for preservation advocates in Laguna Beach, who were fighting an initiative to weaken their preservation ordinance. We are also working to build stronger ties with influential preservation organizations in the greater Los Angeles area to share knowledge and create opportunities to collaborate. TGHS is working collaboratively with the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles on development of mutually beneficial events and with the Los Angeles Conservancy on their efforts to identify and acknowledge outstanding preservation projects in the greater Los Angeles area.

Your membership supports our efforts of preservation in Glendale. In addition to financial support, TGHS greatly benefits from volunteer efforts at all our events: Doctors House tours, the annual Gala & Benefit and the annual Home Tour. If you can dedicate some time to support TGHS events or preservation activities, please send an email to info@glendalehistorical.org and share your interests. Thank you!

Regards,

John Schwab-Sims

Meet Your New Board Members!



David VanTuyle is a Story Artist for Walt Disney Feature Animation. He and his wife, Brianne, live in a 1937 French Provincial

home in the Glenwood neighborhood.



Taleen Barsoumian works in the regenerative medicine and advanced therapies space. She and her family live in

a Spanish Colonial Revival that is a contributor to Glendale's first historic district.



Tom Provost is a writer, director and editor, and a professor of screenwriting at Pepperdine University. He is also

the founder of BagsAndGrace.com, a nonprofit serving LA County's unhoused.

PRESIDENT

John Schwab-Sims

VICE PRESIDENT, PRESERVATION ADVOCACY

John Schwab-Sims

VICE PRESIDENT, OUTREACH

Maria Sahakian

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Oshima

SECRETARY

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Tom Provost

Eric Van Breeme

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Laura Crook

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Matthew Letcher

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Scott Lasken

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Marie Luft

Robert Newcomb*

Steve Preston

Bill Shepherd

David Smith

Arlene Vidor

*Deceased

L.A. Conservancy Presents 2023 Preservation Awards



Carthay Neighborhoods Historic District
PHOTO: Courtesy of L.A. Conservancy

On July 27, the Los Angeles Conservancy announced their 2023 Preservation Awards at the historic CBS Television City Studios in Hollywood.

TGHS President John Schwab-Sims served as a jury member in the selection of the final awardees. Noting that TGHS was awarded an

L.A. Conservancy Preservation Award in 2020 on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, he said, "I am honored to have been asked to serve on the 2023 jury to identify and celebrate those that continue to make substantial contributions to preserve critical resources in our historic Southern California communities."

The 2023 awardees:

- Edinburgh Bungalow Court (Los Angeles)
- All Seasons Brewing Co. (Los Angeles)
- Carthay Neighborhoods Historic District (Los Angeles)
- Downtown L.A. Proper Hotel (Los Angeles)
- First Congregational Church of Long Beach (Long Beach)
- Hollywood Sign (Los Angeles)
- Long Beach Suburbanization and Race Historic Context Statement (Long Beach)
- Tail o' the Pup (West Hollywood)

Award winners include resources that have been successfully rehabilitated for adaptive reuse; an iconic example of roadside programmatic architecture; and implementation of a context statement that acknowledges and provides guidance in the identification of historic resources associated with minority communities.

TGHS would like to wish Linda Dishman, L.A. Conservancy President and CEO, the best of luck in her upcoming retirement. She has accomplished many things in her 31 years at the Conservancy and will be greatly missed.

Visit www.laconservancy.org to learn more about the Conservancy and these deserving awardees.

PRESERVATION

Friends of Rockhaven Files Suit Against the City of Glendale

On April 10, Friends of Rockhaven (FOR) filed a lawsuit against the City of Glendale, alleging “demolition by neglect” of the City-owned Rockhaven Sanitarium property in Montrose. Rockhaven opened in 1923 as a place where women with mental illness could receive humane care. It is a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

FOR is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support and care for the historic property. They state: “We are not suing for a dollar amount but are suing just to force the City to do the necessary maintenance and repair that any City-owned property should enjoy, particularly one with a historic pedigree.” The historic buildings have experienced major water damage. After last year’s rain, mold has now become an issue, and significant interior demolition may be needed to remediate.

FOR contends that this damage was avoidable. The City has owned the property since 2008. For years, both FOR and TGHS asked the City to address longstanding maintenance



PHOTO: Mike Lawler

problems, in particular failing roofs on multiple buildings. Two years ago, State Senator Anthony J. Portantino secured \$8 million for rehabilitation of the property and to create a museum. To date, one roof has been replaced; only very recently did the City properly tarp the other roofs. After more than a decade of inadequate action and increasing damage, FOR believes it had no choice but to file suit.

To learn more about Rockhaven, and to join or donate to FOR, please visit friendsofrockhaven.org

Mid-Century Apartment Buildings at 1303 - 1315 N. Central Proposed for Demolition



PHOTO: Francesca Smith

Twenty years ago, TGHS successfully fought demolition of a two-story, 37-unit garden apartment complex. The same owners are back with a proposal for a six-story, 131-unit building.

Built in 1957, Glendale Gardens was modeled after the elegant multi-family projects then going in along Orange Grove Avenue in Pasadena. It is an intact series of human-scale buildings, unified by expanses of lush green space. Dozens of mature trees, retained from the Victorian estate that preceded its development, remain on the property. It features very large two- and three-bedroom units in which generations of Glendale residents have raised families.

In July, prior to any consideration of Glendale Gardens’ historic status, the Design Review Board conducted a concept hearing at which the developer received preliminary feedback on the proposed project’s site planning, size, massing and scale, and design from board members and the public. TGHS expressed concern that the new project is wholly incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood of small-scale period and mid-century multi-family properties and pointed out that review of the proposed project before the question of its historic status was resolved is problematic.

TGHS is currently reviewing the property’s historic status and will provide an update when that assessment is complete.

TGHS Holds Well-Attended Annual Meeting

On a hot but lovely July 15, TGHS held its Annual Meeting for a large turnout on the shady lawn in front of the Doctors House. Quiche and mimosas were on the brunch menu, most appropriately for the meeting's theme: "Historic Glendale Eats and Drinks."



Bruce Merritt illustrates his talk with historic photos

President John Schwab-Sims gave an inspiring review of the year's activities and preservation accomplishments, followed by equally impressive membership and financial reports. Outgoing Directors Jon Crook, Renée Leask and Hilary Sbei were recognized for their service on the Board, and the prestigious President's Award was given to the documentary team that created "Discovering Glendale's Doctors House."

Arlene Vidor presented the candidates for TGHS's Board. Incumbents David Meunier and John Schwab-Sims were re-elected and the Board welcomed new members Taleen Barsoumian, Tom Provost and David VanTuyle.

The program continued with two presentations in line with the event's theme. Joemy Wilson traced her neighborhood's development from a historic vineyard run by the Pelanconi family to a leafy suburb with a unique set of public schools. Bruce Merritt then delighted the audience with the history of Glendale's beloved Damon's Steak House, along with the rise of tiki culture and the romantic vision of the South Pacific that endures today, sharing several archival photographs.

Many thanks to Nancy Oshima and her crew for a most enjoyable meeting, to Sam and Kathryn Engel for the marvelous tiki display and to sponsors Forest Lawn and Damon's.



Joemy Wilson shares some Glenwood neighborhood lore
PHOTO: Laura Crook



Davian Engle and Leona Abrahamian accept the President's Award on behalf of Glendale TV6. Peter Rusch accepts for himself and Director Russell Harnden III (not pictured)

Doctors House Found Eligible for the National Register

On August 4, the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) unanimously found that TGHS's Doctors House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, the property is automatically listed on the California Register of Historical Resources.

The nomination now goes to the Keeper of the National Register for final review and listing, which TGHS hopes will take place by the end of the year. National Register designation would not provide the Doctors House with new protections, but the distinction is a meaningful acknowledgement by the State of California and the National Park Service of its historical value to the community.

Benefits of being on the National Register include:

- Access to additional grants
- Assistance with preservation efforts
- Tourism and education benefits

The Doctors House, built in 1888, is one of Glendale's only two remaining Queen Anne/Eastlake-style Victorian homes. Located in Brand Park, the house museum is open for tours every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 pm.

If you are interested in the Victorian era and its architecture, history and artifacts, TGHS would be pleased to have you as a volunteer for Sunday tours of the Doctors House Museum. Full training is provided. For more information, please contact laura.crook@glendalehistorical.org

DOCTORS HOUSE

A Special Dinner at the Doctors House



Matthew Letcher, Curtis Schwab-Sims, John Schwab-Sims, Evelyn Schwab-Sims and Kevin Phan enjoy a delicious dinner
PHOTO: Laura Crook



Upstairs and downstairs, all together! Front: Hilary Sbei, Evelyn Schwab-Sims.
Back: Steve Hunt, Laura Crook, Anne Galiana, Curtis Schwab-Sims, John Schwab-Sims, Peter Rusch, Kevin Phan, Matthew Letcher and Scott Halloran.
PHOTO: Matthew Letcher

Is it the Doctors House or is it Downton Abbey? On the evening of May 27, it was hard to tell. The winning bidders at last year's Gala for "Dinner at the Doctors House," Matthew Letcher and Kevin Phan, enjoyed an elegant five-course feast with their guests, the Schwab-Sims family. The staff (Anne Galiana, Hilary Sbei, Scott Halloran, Steve Hunt and Peter Rusch) provided impeccable service, while Laura Crook offered appropriate wine pairings with each course.

Chef Rusch prepared the French onion soup and a salad of baby greens and roasted beets, with pan-fried tilapia filets to follow. Valerie Campbell provided a handmade intermezzo sorbet. Nancy Oshima, channeling Downton's Daisy, made a splendid dessert of flourless chocolate cake with fresh berries and rosemary whipped cream. A delicious time was had by all.

Paint and Sip Inaugurates "Architecture as Art"



Hilary Sbei and Karla Equihua display their handiwork

As a kickoff event for the June 4 opening of "Architecture as Art," a special exhibit at the Doctors House, guest instructor Dilmit Singh, President of the Verdugo Hills Art Association, led a lively workshop at the Museum entitled "Paint and Sip." A mix of TGHS members and prospective members attended as Singh made the event a joyous one, encouraging those who were less than confident to have fun and surprise themselves with their success.

"Architecture as Art" runs through November 26, Sundays from 2:00-4:00. Museum Director Laura Crook hopes that this exhibit, which is also a silent auction to benefit the Doctors House, will draw more visitors. Admission for TGHS members is always free!

WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS MAY - JULY 2023

SAN RAFAEL PATRON
Rima & Donnell Cameron

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Arlene Vidor

JEWEL CITY PATRON
Faline England & David Meunier
Corinne Sánchez & Efen Manjarrez

VERDUGO PATRON
Leslie & Robert Gordon
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Anita & Russell Harnden
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Chris & Steve Warheit

TROPICO
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Brenda Berg & Armando Gonzalez
Dorothy Black
Judy & Dan Cabrera
Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen
Houry & Vigen Ghazarian
Joan Hardie
Matthew Letcher & Kevin Phan

Patricia Messina & Terrance Hines
John Schuning & Gregory Ross
Kelly Tyler & Kenneth Simon
Susan Wolfson

HOUSEHOLD

Carol & Ron Brusha – N
George Campos – N
Karan & Doug Davies
Nadia & Robert DeWees
Zuzka & Peter Eggena
The Grayson Family
The Grimes Family
Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch
Domenico Ingenito & Victor Mazzone
Karen Leal & David Eldan
Hector Montejano
Mickey & Michael Murphy
Diana Cholakian Pearre
Ryan Tish & Christopher Smee
Julie & Stephen Webber
Sharon & William Weisman

INDIVIDUAL

Javier Barajas – N
Ute Baum
Kasey Conley

Amy Davis
Colleen Deziel – U
Wendy Gish
Annelise Holyoak
Cindy Kenyon – N
Mimi Khalel – U
Elizabeth Normoyle – N
Raymond Shinn
Roberta Stone
Vick Touzjian

SENIOR

Jennifer Allcroft
Jean Baaden
Davidia Barba
Joe Barba
Jennifer Berry
George Budd
Denise Carlton – N
Stephanie Chong
Gerda D'Nino
Brian Frobisher
Larry Hovland
Jarita Kirkwood
Ronald Lanyi – N
Laura Lovick
Richard Lovick

Michael Masterson
Anne McDonald
Nancy Oshima
Laura Sarley – N
Paula Sigman-Lowery
Warren Thomas
Kathleen Vestuto
Carolyn West
Amy Yazzetta
Lisa Yesko
Sarah Yesko

STUDENT

Chloe Cuffel
Celestine Davidson

TGHS also welcomes 57 special new members through the Glendale Federal Credit Union!

N - New Member
U - Upgrading Member

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

THANK YOU, CORPORATE/BUSINESS SPONSORS!

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The Walt Disney Company

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Francesca & Lee Smith
Karin & Dennis van Bremen
Chris & Steve Warheit
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson
Gabriella Zecchetto & Blake Mills

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 30, 7:00 pm: Harold Lloyd's *Safety Last*
CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

Brand Park, Doctors House Lawn

Gates open at 5:30. Bring a picnic, blanket or chair and enjoy
a free film screening courtesy of the Alex Film Society, Brand
Associates, Retroformat Silent Films and TGHS.

Saturday, October 7, 6:00-10:00 pm

GALA & BENEFIT

A Swanky Soirée at Barker House

Live and online auction

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/3PgruQw>
or via the QR code



\$150 members, \$175 non-members

Date and time TBA

GLENDALE ART DECO BUS TOUR

A joint event with the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles

On view through November 26,
Sundays 2:00-4:00

ARCHITECTURE AS ART:

Special exhibit and silent auction
Interpretations of significant
historic structures throughout
the city of Glendale. Donation
requested for tour and entrance to
exhibit: \$10. TGHS members free.



On TGHS's website:

“STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PART VIII”

Katherine Yamada's ongoing saga of Glendale. Read about E.D. and Alletia Goode, Their Railway, the
Odd Fellows and a 1916 Tragedy. The Goodes were Glendale's power couple of the early 1900s.

Read the full article at: <https://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing-8>

If you missed any of TGHS's great events, you can access the archived videos at glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events



To get the most up-to-date information on TGHS's events and preservation alerts, check out
facebook.com/GlendaleHistoricalSociety AND instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety