



MILLS ACT EXTENSION TO CONTRIBUTORS MAKES PROGRESS



As most TGHS members know, the Mills Act is a statewide program that allows owners of qualified historic resources to receive a property tax reduction in exchange for agreeing to maintain their properties to the highest preservation standards.

When a historic district is established in Glendale, the properties included within its boundaries are classified either as contributors (those built during the district's "period of significance" and retaining their historic integrity and architectural features) or non-contributors. Recognizing the importance of preserving contributors that don't necessarily rise to full Glendale Register significance but that are nonetheless crucial to maintaining

the character of Glendale's historic neighborhoods, TGHS advocated for extending the Mills Act tax benefit to contributing properties in designated historic districts (in addition to those on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources), which the City Council agreed to do in 2016.

TGHS promoted the change in emails and newsletter articles, but the City did not, and for several years owners expressed little interest. The City is now planning to implement a Mills Act application process specifically for owners of historic district contributors. Planning staff are proposing a merit-based application review process that would reward applicants seeking to perform significant restoration and upgrade work (e.g., seismic retrofitting or a new electrical system). Details are still being refined, and it is expected to go before the Historic Preservation Commission for a recommendation to Council. Currently, it is proposed that up to two Mills Act contracts for district contributors be prepared each year, with the possibility of more, depending on how many Glendale Register contracts are approved within that year.

This program has the potential to expand the pool of homeowners in Glendale who want to commit to preserving their historic properties for years to come, with the financial incentive of reduced property taxes to bolster the historical and aesthetic rewards. TGHS encourages members to consider applying for a Mills Act contract. Be sure to monitor the Preservation tab on TGHS's website for updates, or contact info@glendalehistorical.org for more information.



A Virtual Holiday Party, with Cake

Flipping rapidly through the pages of her most recent cookbook, "A World of Cake: 150 Recipes for Sweet Traditions from Near and Far," avid baker, industrial designer and Art Center College of Design professor Krystina Castella gave TGHS members a whirlwind tour of baked goods from Austria to Zimbabwe. This virtual tribute to the sweet tooth on December 9 began with a video of her visits to local pastry shops and an affirmation that you can "travel in your own kitchen." In a multicultural journey through a world of holiday cakes, Castella highlighted the origin and evolution of many favorites, detailing their cultural relevance and connection to traditions. Many thanks to sponsors Alan Adams, Forest Lawn, G&C Properties and Regrout.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

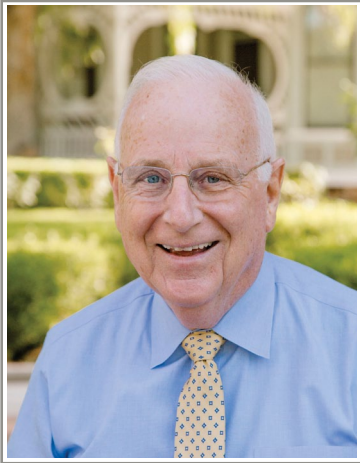


PHOTO: Irmina Hamilton

The Glendale Historical Society's "State of the Society" is usually presented at our Annual Membership Meeting in July, near the end of our fiscal year. But the 2020 calendar year was so unusual, characterized as it was by a new lifestyle of staying home and meeting on Zoom, that it seems appropriate to look back now.

I am pleased to report that TGHS made it through 2020, still a strong, active organization dedicated to preservation. Our membership remains robust and our finances stable. TGHS is especially grateful to all the leaders and members of the following committees:

PRESERVATION (Andy Allison, Vice President, Preservation Advocacy)

Andy and his committee have worked hard on preservation issues throughout the City. They continue to monitor projects that may affect identified historic properties, making significant progress in flagging such resources in the City's Property Portal. The application to create a Bellehurst historic district has been reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission, and applicants are now circulating a petition through which property owners ask the City to prepare a historic resources survey of the proposed district.

There have been disappointments, however. Two pending historic districts, Casa Verdugo and South Cumberland Heights, are still waiting to move forward. Although a professional survey was completed in August, the required public meeting has not been held. There appears to be a

strong correlation between preservation progress in the City and the number of Historic Preservation Council (HPC) meetings held each year; eight of the eleven normally scheduled HPC meetings in 2020 were cancelled.

It is our hope that up to six properties will be added to the Glendale Register of Historic Structures in 2021. One property was added in 2020, even though a number of applications are waiting for approval.

OUTREACH (Derek Catao, Vice President, Outreach)

Last year was a remarkably busy one for outreach. Each Constant Contact message required careful preparation. Digital events were recorded and archived on TGHS's website and the quarterly newsletter has been published and distributed as usual.

MEMBERSHIP (Robert Gordon, Vice President, Membership)

How do you retain membership during a pandemic? Robert was one of the first to suggest that we replace our regular events with online offerings, and the Virtual Events Committee has done exceptional work. The new software program for membership is up and running. We now have a working relationship with the Glendale Federal Credit Union; anyone applying as a new member of GFCU will be offered a membership in TGHS. Many thanks as well to our members who have renewed, both at regular and Patron levels, and to contributors to the year-end Vrej Mardian Preservation Fund drive, which raised more than \$1,000.

The 2021 crystal ball is still cloudy, but when the Board feels it is safe to resume regular events, we will let you know. In the meantime, please be careful. Stay safe and well.

Regards,

Steve Hunt

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TGHS is looking for interested members to serve on the Board of Directors, as well as a variety of committees. If you are interested in getting more involved, or know someone that you would like to recommend for a leadership role, please contact info@glendalehistorical.org by **March 20, 2021**.

TGHS is looking for persons with skills in graphic design, IT, legal expertise, bookkeeping, event planning, volunteer coordination, editing/writing skills, communications outreach and fundraising. The term begins August 1, 2021.

THE
GLENDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VICE PRESIDENT, OUTREACH
Derek Catao

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP
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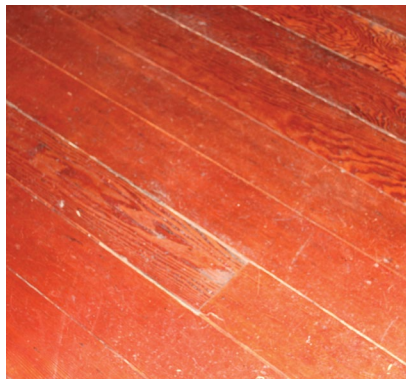
*Deceased

A Victorian Literary Journey

Did you know that honey was an effective treatment for a gunshot wound, or if you happened to be mauled by a bear? TGHS members who Zoomed into “Life, Death and Medicine in the Victorian Age” on January 7 learned this and more. Moderator Anne Louise Bannon and panelists A. E. Wasserman, Colleen Fliedner and Linda McLaughlin of History Talks, the speakers’ collective of the Southern California Chapter of the Historical Novel Society, engaged in a lively discussion of Victorian customs and their current relevance. A presentation on poor farms, where rehab medicine was born, led to a spirited exchange concerning local sites such as Rockhaven Sanitarium and TGHS’s own Doctors House Museum.

Many thanks again to TGHS’s four Virtual Events sponsors and the quartet of historical novelists for this fascinating journey back in time.

Speaking of the Doctors House...



Before
PHOTO: Peter Rusch



After
PHOTO: Peter Rusch

Thanks to excellent management by the City of Glendale Community Services and Parks Department and superb work by Period Piece, the 120-year-old fir floors of the Doctors House Museum have been repaired and restored. Forty years and hundreds of thousands of footsteps had taken their toll; attention to the venerable boards was long overdue and required a labor-intensive, three-week process.

Hands-on Curator Peter Rusch, with Scott Halloran, cleared the decks by rolling up carpets and moving massive pieces of Victorian furniture. The craftsmen then thoroughly cleaned all exposed spaces with TSP, repaired cracks with sawdust-based filler and applied two coats of polyurethane. The floors were then buffed “to look and feel like soft velvet,” says Rusch.

The old boards now gleam with all their original beauty, awaiting many more footsteps to come – with luck, starting before the end of 2021.

Call to Action: Preserving Bellehurst

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Glendale's Bellehurst Ranch was one of the most prolific growers and shippers of citrus in California. Many Bellehurst neighborhood yards today still retain some of the orchard's original olive, shade and citrus trees, along with a bounty of Period Revival architecture.

By March 22, the petition requesting the required historic survey for the proposed Bellehurst Historic District must receive signatures from 25% of property owners within the area. You can help! District proponents welcome readers with friends or family who own homes in the mapped overlay zone shown at bellehursthistoricdistrict.com to offer encouragement to sign or to ask questions. This website also offers a COVID-safe DocuSign petition process and is an invaluable resource for updates and history.

With community support, TGHS and Bellehurst residents can preserve this great and diverse neighborhood for generations to come.



PHOTOS: Kathleen Clark

Grayson Power Plant Update

In the Winter 2020 newsletter, TGHS reported the good news that three properties, including the L. W. Grayson Steam Electric Generating Station (1941), had been added to the California Register, following a mandatory historic resources survey prepared as part of the planned California high-speed rail project. The properties were determined eligible for the National Register, which meant they were automatically listed in the California Register. Unfortunately, the Rail Authority has since reversed that determination for Grayson.

The Glendale Historical Society understands that historic status

does not mean that the Generating Station cannot be expanded or rebuilt as an exemplary green power plant. It is even possible to demolish the historic building to accomplish this worthwhile goal. The intent of TGHS is to preserve the history and significance of the property for the record, even when the structure itself is gone.

In 2017, TGHS submitted an 18-page historic resources evaluation asserting the belief that Grayson is a historic resource eligible for the California and Glendale Registers. The organization continues to hold this opinion and is in ongoing discussions with the City, its

consultants and the Grayson project managers. If needed, a third impartial organization may be asked to review the data and findings from both sides to determine Grayson's historic eligibility.

TGHS is pleased that the City has recently asked members of our organization to tour the plant and to meet with the EIR consultants. This newsletter issue went to press while negotiations were still in progress; TGHS will inform readers when a resolution has been reached.

“Wedding Cake” House Added to Glendale Register

In December 2020, the City Council unanimously approved designation of Newton House at 305 E. Randolph Street. Built in 1906 in an eclectic riff on the Neoclassical style, it is the oldest house in Casa Verdugo and part of that neighborhood’s proposed historic district. Newton House may be the official name, but the property is popularly known as the “Wedding Cake” house for the decorative frieze that runs across the upper walls along three facades, as well as the flat roof, which is rare for a house of this period.

In August, City staff had stated that no properties would be added to the Glendale Register in 2020.

After intervention from TGHS, Council directed staff

to bring this property forward. Councilmembers Brotman, Devine and Kassakhian have made good on their promised support of preservation in their “Ask the Candidate” responses during the last election, which can be reviewed at glendalehistorical.org on the Preservation tab. At the Jan. 26 Council meeting, staff indicated they plan to bring at least six properties for nomination to the Glendale Register in 2021, which is welcome news.



TGHS Extends Community Outreach



From left: Sona Tatiyants, with daughters Ellie and Emily, enjoying the results of their labors
PHOTO: Alex Tatiyants

Despite current conditions, TGHS continues to grow and evolve. In November, a new Membership subcommittee was formed: the Membership Outreach Inclusion Committee (MOIC). Chaired by Cathy Grayson working with eight other dedicated women, MOIC focuses on outreach to young families with children, college students and a membership that reflects diversity.

In February, with MOIC’s leadership, TGHS partnered with the Glendale YWCA in “Stories of Black Residents in Glendale: Past and Present.” TGHS was also a Changemaker Sponsor for the Y’s 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge.

On February 13, TGHS hosted its first digital event for children, “Vintage Baking with Sona Tatiyants.” MOIC is also developing mentoring experiences for GCC students and is partnering with GUSC to provide presentations of historical interest to PTA groups. The committee has created a list of upcoming community events, with plans to host a membership table when they resume.

More news on MOIC’s diversity and inclusion outreach is coming your way soon!

GLENDALE HISTORY

The Story Behind San Fernando Road

by Katherine Peters Yamada



San Fernando Road, ca. 1906: Installing gas pipeline
PHOTO: Special Collections, Glendale Library

Today, San Fernando Road may be thought of as just another city street, but it is one of the oldest and most historic routes in Southern California. It began as a trail, most likely used by the Tongva people, from whose language we have such names as Tujunga, Azusa and Pacoima. Their villages stretched from Topanga Canyon in the northwest to the base of Mount Wilson in the north, to the San Bernardino area in the east and to the Aliso Creek vicinity in the southeast.

When Spanish soldier Jose Maria Verdugo received his 36,000-plus acre land grant in 1784, the Tongvas' footpath had become a dirt wagon trail, known as the Los Angeles and San Fernando Road. In 1795, church officials, wishing to establish another mission between the existing San Gabriel and San Buenaventura missions, traveled the road through Verdugo's land in search of the ideal site. They selected property to the northwest of Verdugo's rancho, opening Mission San Fernando Rey de España in 1797.

San Fernando Road wasn't officially named until 1871, when Verdugo's huge estate was divided into 31 parcels in the "Great Partition" court case. The court also ordered that the Los Angeles and San Fernando Road remain open for unrestricted travel "henceforth and forever." In 1918, the portion that ran through Glendale officially became San Fernando Road.

Despite a couple of interruptions by Interstate 5 and a few name changes as it winds its way northward for 24 miles, the historic route remains a major artery, connecting Los Angeles and the San Fernando Mission and points beyond. And of course it's an excellent alternative to the 5 when driving between North and South Glendale!

Katherine Yamada welcomes your questions and comments about local history. katherineyamada@gmail.com

TGHS Celebrates Fly-In Centennial

After making his fortune in real estate and earning the sobriquet "Father of Glendale," Leslie C. Brand had the time and money to indulge in two of his greatest passions: aviation and hobnobbing with movie stars. These came together in spectacular fashion on April 1, 1921.

Despite the date, the stipulation in the luncheon invitation was no joke. As the Glendale News Press reported, "Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Brand plan to receive none except those coming by airplane."

The cream of Glendale high society and Hollywood royalty, including director Victor Fleming and glamorous actresses Mary Miles Minter and Ruth Roland, were flown into Brand's private airstrip just below El Miradero, his castle-like home. Military pilots fresh from WW I triumphs vied to outdo each other with such dangerous barnstorming stunts that it was a miracle there were no disasters. Famed aviatrix Neta Snook, Amelia Earhart's flying instructor, also dropped in.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of "America's first aviation luncheon," TGHS will party like it's 1921: a virtual Raising the Bar with chic 1920s cocktails and another fabulous video from the team that brought you "Our Favorite Features," highlighting the Brand estate in its heyday, with vintage aircraft and silent film stars galore. Stay tuned!

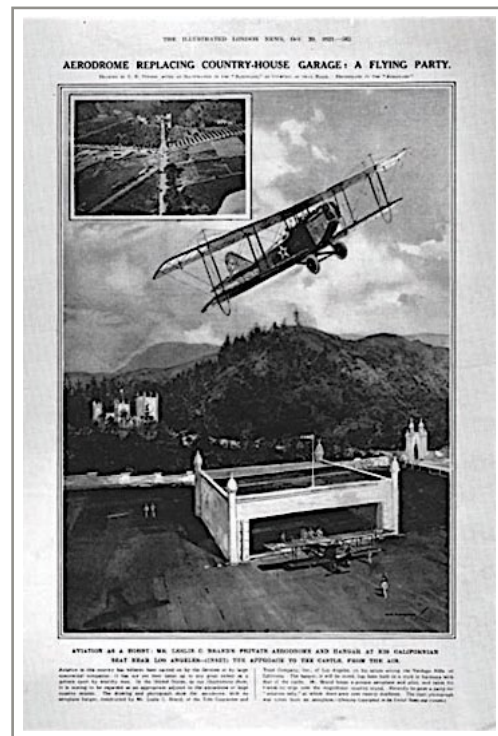


PHOTO: London Illustrated News

WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS NOVEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

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Scott Fraser

SAN RAFAEL PATRON

Greg Grammer &
Simon Wright
Valerie & Bruce Merritt

JEWEL CITY PATRON

Guy DeConte &
Ammar Kharouf

VERDUGO PATRON

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Howard D. Anderson - U
Wm. Richard Anderson - N
Carolyn & John Clauss Jr
Peggy Dionne
Pam & Jim Elyea
Toni & Vince Espinoza
Art Fisher &
William Shepherd
Nancy Hathaway
(The Wine Vault)
Devonna & Aaron Reichert

TROPICO

Ronald Cressy
Lolly Gallup

Susan Garrett
Marcia Hanford
Ann Howitt - N
Wendy Juleff
Susan Kirk
Blake & Rob Lamb
Joe Lo Truglio
Catherine L. & Martin N.
Montoro
Raquel Morales - N
Tammy & John O'Connor
Linda & Hugh Saurenman Trust
Patty Silversher
Joemy Wilson & Jon Harvey

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Megan & Dennis Chapham
Veronica Chavoor & Victoria
Gering
Maria Chua & John Krause - N
Tamsin Glasson &
Brian Welsh - N
Joyce & John Goodwin
Claire Hieber & Ben Stanley
Sarojini Lall & Paul Westacott
Effie Pappas-Block &
David Block
Jayne Roses & Mitch Landau

Elaine & Kurt Sawitskas
Stephanie Schus &
Joe Russin
Lee & Gregory Straus
Leann & William Warner
Rebecca & Chuck Weiss
Marsha Wong & Rick Stern

INDIVIDUAL

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Charles Cooley
Kama Hayes - N
Michael Masterson
Suzanne McDonnell - N
Maria Sahakian
Armen Sarkissian
Hilary Sbei
Richard Threlkeld

SENIOR

Bob Beadles
Richard Blasco
Susan Dasso
Deborah Donnelly
Robin Lee Hansen
Gwen Hinton
James Hinton
Nancy Klein
Isabelle Meyer
Stephen Montgomery

Josephine Moukhtar
Jennifer Muirhead - N
Carl Nelson
Gail Nelson
Marilyn Oliver
Robert Paris
Mary Ann Prelock
Judy Rao
Candice Stein
Bonnie Tortorelli
William Vasquez
Miriam Strysik
Catherine Yesayan

STUDENT

Ani Mnatsakanyan

NONPROFIT

Hannah Lazarus
(Walk Bike Glendale)

N - New Member

U - Upgrading Member

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

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Find us on  

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Save the Date!

Saturday, July 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
TGHS ANNUAL MEETING

You won't want to miss the Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held via Zoom on July 17 at 10:00 am. Besides the annual business meeting required by TGHS's bylaws, the event will include entertainment and brunch (yes, you read that correctly)!

A Spotlight on the Alex

On November 19, TGHS celebrated Glendale's beloved Alex Theatre with a digital event that included "An Architectural and Historical Tour of the Alex," developed for the Alex's 95th Birthday Celebration and introduced by Nina Crowe, the Alex's Managing Director. A historical overview and backstage tour was given by Musical Theatre Guild member Jason Graae from a script developed by TGHS members Hilary Sbei and Laura Crook and funded by TGHS in partnership with Glendale Arts. Russell Harnden's "Thanks for the Memories: A Behind the Scenes Look" was introduced by Randy Carter, Vice President of the Alex Film Society; this film was created in honor of TGHS's 40th Anniversary in partnership with TGHS, the Film Society and Glendale Arts. A lively Q&A led by Crowe, Harnden and Carter rounded out the program, which was sponsored by Forest Lawn, Regrout and Alan Adams. Thanks to all for a nostalgic evening!

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