



TGHS HONORED BY LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY WITH PRESERVATION AWARD



From left: Francesca Smith, Greg Grammer, John Schwab-Sims, Marcia Hanford, Steve Hunt, Cathy Jurca, Ani Mnatsakanyan
PHOTO: Larry Underhill

On October 27, The Glendale Historical Society finally got the chance to receive and celebrate its 2020 Preservation Award from the Los Angeles Conservancy. Last year's ceremony was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Conservancy hosted a cocktail reception at the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which was itself the recipient of a 2021 Preservation Award from the Conservancy following a recent renovation. TGHS Board members and volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to network with other prominent preservation groups from throughout the Los Angeles area.

Each year, a select panel of architecture and preservation experts honors projects or organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievement in historic preservation. The recognition for TGHS stated: "A successful grassroots effort to save a historic home in the City of Glendale forty years ago is now a celebrated nonprofit helping to preserve its community's rich and diverse history and architectural heritage."

TGHS is very proud to have received this award for forty years of successful preservation advocacy and will continue to work to preserve Glendale's history for generations to come.

City Deliberates Future of Rockhaven

As reported in TGHS's Fall newsletter, on June 29, Senator Anthony Portantino (D - La Cañada Flintridge) secured \$8 million in funding for Rockhaven, a historic district listed in the National Register. The money is to be used to "renovate and preserve the historic Rockhaven property for the public to enjoy and appreciate as a museum."

The City Council met on October 26 to decide on accepting the funding and to discuss the overall strategy to rehabilitate the site. Options discussed were:

1. Developing the site as a park, including public facilities and a museum
2. Developing the site as a park with commercial opportunities
3. Entertaining non-exclusive discussions with interested parties
4. Seeking new development proposals

The Council rejected options 3 and 4 and expressed a preference for a combination of 1 and 2. Council supported the idea of a community center and other public facilities including the museum, which is necessary to qualify for the state funding. But they also would welcome commercial opportunities, such as a café, restaurant, and/or wine bar that would service visitors to the museum and park and help pay for upkeep. TGHS went on record in support of a vision that combines ample public facilities with compatible commercial uses.

A majority of Council members were also willing to explore the possibility of affordable housing at the site, a proposal that may be infeasible to implement if the character of the low-scale historic property is to be respected.

TGHS will be working closely with the City, Friends of Rockhaven and the Crescenta Valley Historical Society to ensure that all work at the property meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and that the result is something of which all Glendale will be proud.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

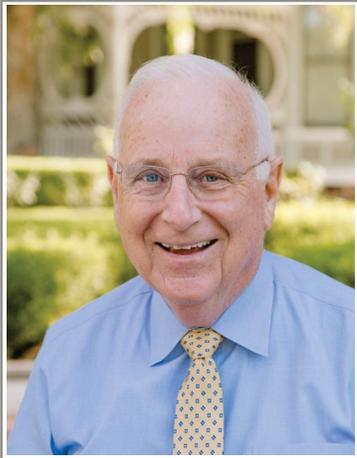


PHOTO: Irmina Hamilton

Throughout the pandemic, The Glendale Historical Society's preservation work has continued with as much dedication as ever. Three of our newest Board members are spearheading the organization's current efforts: Vice President of Preservation John Schwab-Sims leads a team that includes Board members David Meunier

and Ani Mnatsakanyan, with longtime preservation activists Cathy Jurca and Francesca Smith, both former Board members. Together they monitor projects in the city that may affect historic structures, respond to inquiries and promote preservation through lectures, digital events and outreach efforts.

This stellar team is carrying on a tradition that was just honored by the Los Angeles Conservancy with a prestigious Preservation Award. You can read about the ceremony on Page 1.

Digital events continue to keep us connected. Cathy Grayson leads a team that includes her Board colleagues as well as volunteer members. Most of these events are archived on the TGHS website. As we return to in-person events, we plan to record some of them for future viewing as well.

There is good news from the Glendale Central Library. Anne Mar was hired last March as a full-time Local History Librarian. Anyone who wishes to use the Glendale History Room to take advantage of its extensive collection can simply contact her and make an appointment. Mar reports that she's hopeful this invaluable resource will be fully open early next year.

In the expectation that 2022 will see a return to many live TGHS activities, committees are actively planning such signature events as the Home Tour, Taste of Spain and the Gala & Benefit. Exciting plans for the Doctors House include a March 2022 celebration of five historic Glendale entrepreneurial women in honor of Women's History Month. We are so looking forward to seeing you once again at these events!

TGHS has lost a good friend. Art Devine, husband of Mayor Paula Devine, passed away on September 10, 2021. We will remember him through his own words. Art was quoted as saying, *"There is nothing more rewarding and gratifying than knowing you are helping people and making a difference by giving your time and resource without wanting, expecting, or receiving anything in return."*

Words to live by for all of us.

Regards,

Great News for History Buffs

For nearly twenty years, longtime TGHS member Katherine Peters Yamada wrote a history column for the Glendale News-Press. Now she will share her discoveries via a quarterly post on TGHS's website!

Yamada's debut column tells the story of a young soldier, Jose Maria Verdugo, who was stationed at San Gabriel Mission, built more than 250 years ago on land that was home to the Tongva people. After receiving a huge land grant, Verdugo lived the life of a Spanish don - ranching, raising a family, providing hospitality to travelers and sending his produce to market in the pueblo that eventually became the city of Los Angeles.

However, his Rancho San Rafael remained intact for less than a century. An unpaid mortgage led to the dissolution of the estate and to the founding of the city of Glendale.

You can read *Still Standing After All These Years: The Tongvas, the Mission and the Verdugos* at glendalehistorical.org/still-standing



Katherine Yamada

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Two Properties for Glendale Register



Webber House
PHOTO: Victoria Lasken

TGHS is happy to report that the City has begun to process Glendale Register nominations after last year's hiatus. Glendale is home to several houses designed by master mid-century architect A. Quincy Jones. Built in 1950,

Webber House at 268 W. Kenneth is virtually identical to the "Sun Villa" house that Jones built for a developer in San Diego one year earlier, which won the American Institute of Architects' First Honor Award. This modern post and beam residence features walls of glass at the front and rear and clerestory windows at the side elevations, above solid walls of vertical wood siding. With this style, Jones sought to make high design affordable to postwar homeowners in a compact 1000-square-foot package. Deeply set back on its lot, the house is only partially visible from the street. Lucky TGHS Mad for Modern home tour-goers got to see it up close in 2015.

Glendale was once a city of Craftsman houses, and 1300 N. Maryland exemplifies that early-twentieth-century architectural tradition. As with many early properties in Glendale, the architect is unknown.



Tatum House

Tatum House was built circa 1908 and is one of the oldest residences within the pending Casa Verdugo Historic District. Distinctive features include a full-width front porch with horizontal wood cladding along the low porch wall and at the columns, a large front dormer with flared eaves and decorative knee braces, and windows with diamond-patterned muntins. At the owners' request, the magnificent Deodar Cedar in the front yard is protected along with the house. Tatum House was on TGHS's 2013 Casa Verdugo home tour.

TGHS congratulates these homeowners and thanks them for their commitment to preserving their historic homes.

PRESERVATION

Progress Continues with Historic Districts

One historic neighborhood is now much closer to joining Glendale's seven other historic districts.

Casa Verdugo passed a major milestone in completing circulation of its final petition to request a historic district overlay zone. The City of Glendale requires that 50% of property owners plus one must support designation in order to progress to the next step, which includes a final review and recommendation by the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions (and ultimately to City Council for a final vote). Casa Verdugo submitted a petition with signatures from over 75% of residents in favor of the district. The request for designation has been recommended by the HPC and the Planning Commission. If all goes well Council will vote to approve it on December 14.

South Cumberland Heights requested an extension for their final petition. Applicants have signatures from over 50% of residents, but they believe more residents will sign, as the pandemic has made gathering signatures more difficult. The HPC granted the extension.

There is also good news with the pending Bellehurst Historic District.

The City has selected a consultant to prepare the historic resources survey, which will encompass not only the pending historic district but also the entire Bellehurst tract, after several residents outside the district boundaries requested inclusion in the historic district. This survey will take up to eight months to complete. Next steps would include a community meeting to discuss the survey and an HPC review and recommendation before the final petition is circulated.

TGHS would like to acknowledge and thank the neighborhood volunteers who continue to advocate for these and other historic districts. With the passage of SB9, which will allow for lot splits and up to four units on an existing single-family parcel, there is concern about potential change in character and livability for traditional single-family neighborhoods. Historic districts are exempt from SB9.

If you have any questions about historic districts or would like information on the process to establish one, please send your inquiries to preservation@glendalehistorical.org



The eponymous casa of the pending Casa Verdugo Historic District



Elegant English Revival for the pending South Cumberland Heights District



Mudéjar-influenced Spanish charm in the pending Bellehurst Historic District

TGHS Lawsuit Update

As was mentioned in the Fall newsletter, The Glendale Historical Society filed suit over the approval of a 12-unit residential project at 534 N. Kenwood Street, on the site of a historic Aeroplane Craftsman built in 1913. TGHS alleged that the proposed plans would have an adverse impact on the historic resource and that the City should prepare an Environmental Impact Report to identify feasible mitigation measures and analyze alternatives before it could reconsider approval.

At present, the administrative record is being prepared; this includes all the evidence submitted before or during the final hearing for the project. If no settlement between the parties is reached, a court date will be set after both sides agree on the record. TGHS will of course keep its membership posted.



Let's Roll!

On June 24, TGHS partnered with DishDivvy, a Glendale-based food tech startup, to present How I Roll, a hands-on Zoom class. The event inaugurated a series that will highlight the cultural diversity of Glendale through food. So much of a culture's history is embedded in its cuisine, and every culture has some version of a roll. Presenters Chef Nessa and DishDivvy CEO and founder Ani Torosyan chose one of their favorites to teach: an authentic Vietnamese spring roll.

Chef Nessa, of Chinese descent, born in Viet Nam and raised in Los Angeles, says, "My food philosophy is simple: eat fresh, clean, high-quality whole foods as much as possible." The colorful, gorgeous ingredients she wrapped up for TGHS clearly attested to that!

Many thanks to Mary Kay Prather and Cathy Grayson, along with their hard-working committee members, for these two delicious and informative offerings.

Breaking Bread with She Loves Collective

What do you do with 500 pounds of lavash, the thin flatbread recognized by UNESCO as originating in Armenia? If you are a group of Armenian American women artist/activists in Glendale, you create Her Relic, an evocative room made entirely of lavash – walls, furniture, objects of daily life and even pets – to honor traditional women's work.

On July 29, She Loves Collective member and avowed "artist" Ani Nina Oganyan introduced a large virtual TGHS audience to several examples of powerful work by the all-woman Collective, highlighted by a walk-through of the Her Relic installation at the Glendale Central Library's ReflectSpace Gallery.



DOCTORS HOUSE

West Family Visits Doctors House



Back row: Vicky West (step-mom), Ray West, Jr. (grandson of Dorothy and Ray), Chip West (great-grandson), Taylor Henderson (great-great-grandson). Front row: Chase, Ethan, Elijah and Chloe Rae West (great-great-grandchildren of Dorothy and Ray)
PHOTO: Laura Crook

On July 24, the Doctors House opened briefly for some VIP guests: the family of Dorothy and Ray West.

The octogenarian Wests were major players in the restoration of the Doctors House during the 1980s and were known as the Mama and Papa Bear of their volunteer family. The Museum still displays an image of the Wests proudly showing off Dorothy's restoration of a toilet seat.



Dorothy West with her handiwork

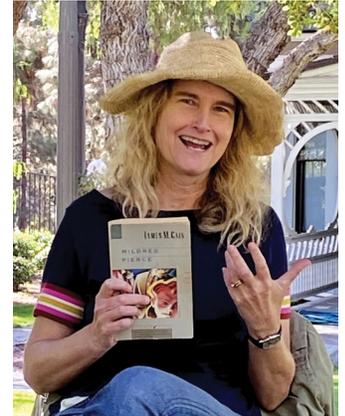
When their great-grandson, Raymond "Chip" West, asked to see the house with his family, Museum Director Laura Crook was happy to oblige. Dusting off her docent notes, she provided a tour of the house along with a glimpse into the West family past, while three generations marveled at the legacy left by their own Mama and Papa Bear.

TGHS Inaugurates Book Club

The shady back lawn of the Doctors House provided the perfect spot to discuss the novel that begins, "In the spring of 1931, on a lawn in Glendale, California, a man was bracing trees."

On October 17, Catherine Jurca led TGHS's first book club meeting, on James M. Cain's 1941 classic noir novel, "Mildred Pierce."

Glendale and its signature Spanish Colonial Revival architecture play a major role in the story, both as setting and as metaphor. Cain's vivid writing brings 1930s Glendale to life; readers enjoyed visualizing the route from Glendale to Pasadena before the 134 was built and found the culturally approved "furniture suites" for a Spanish bungalow very amusing.



Cathy Jurca leads group discussion on Cain novel



Cathy Grayson and Laura Crook host their version of Mildred's Pie Wagon

Many thanks to Jurca for guiding an invigorating dialogue, and to Cathy Grayson and Laura Crook, not only for organizing the event but for bringing delicious pies as a post-meeting treat! Mildred's famous pies could not have been any better.

"Is there a Doctor in the House?" TGHS Goes Ghost-Hunting

Victorian architecture became linked with the supernatural after the deadly Civil War, as many Americans held séances in their parlors in an attempt to contact lost loved ones. As Victorian houses fell out of fashion and into disrepair, they began to appear quite haunted!

Naturally, TGHS couldn't resist the idea of a ghost hunt at the Doctors House. Craig Owens, a local author and paranormal researcher, set up spirit detectors at the Museum and spent two evenings monitoring them, with TGHS volunteers Laura Crook, Jane Sheldon and Kathryn Brunet.

On October 21, TGHS held an online event to share the results. Though Owens' findings were inconclusive, his monitors did detect a few eerie and unexplained sounds, and the spooktacular night was enjoyed by all!

WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021

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VIRTUAL EVENTS



Hidden in Plain Sight

On September 30, Executive Director of the Museum of Neon Art Corrie Siegel took TGHS members on an illuminating virtual trip around Glendale and surrounding neighborhoods. A follow-up to last year's MONA presentation, "Hidden in Plain Sight" took a closer look at the signs and the businesses they advertised that shaped Glendale's diverse community.

Siegel provided historical context as to why neon signs have had such a tumultuous past in cities. Once representing signs of modernity, they later became known for their association with red-light districts, liquor stores and casinos, prompting many cities and business owners to scrap the hand-bent tubes

of glass for other pieces. The presentation challenged guests to reconsider pre-conceived notions of what deserves to be saved, protected and displayed.

Glendale signs on display at MONA include La Fonda Mexican Restaurant and Billy's Deli. Though their businesses are long gone, these objects still illuminate stories of Glendale's past.

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