

# THE GLENDORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

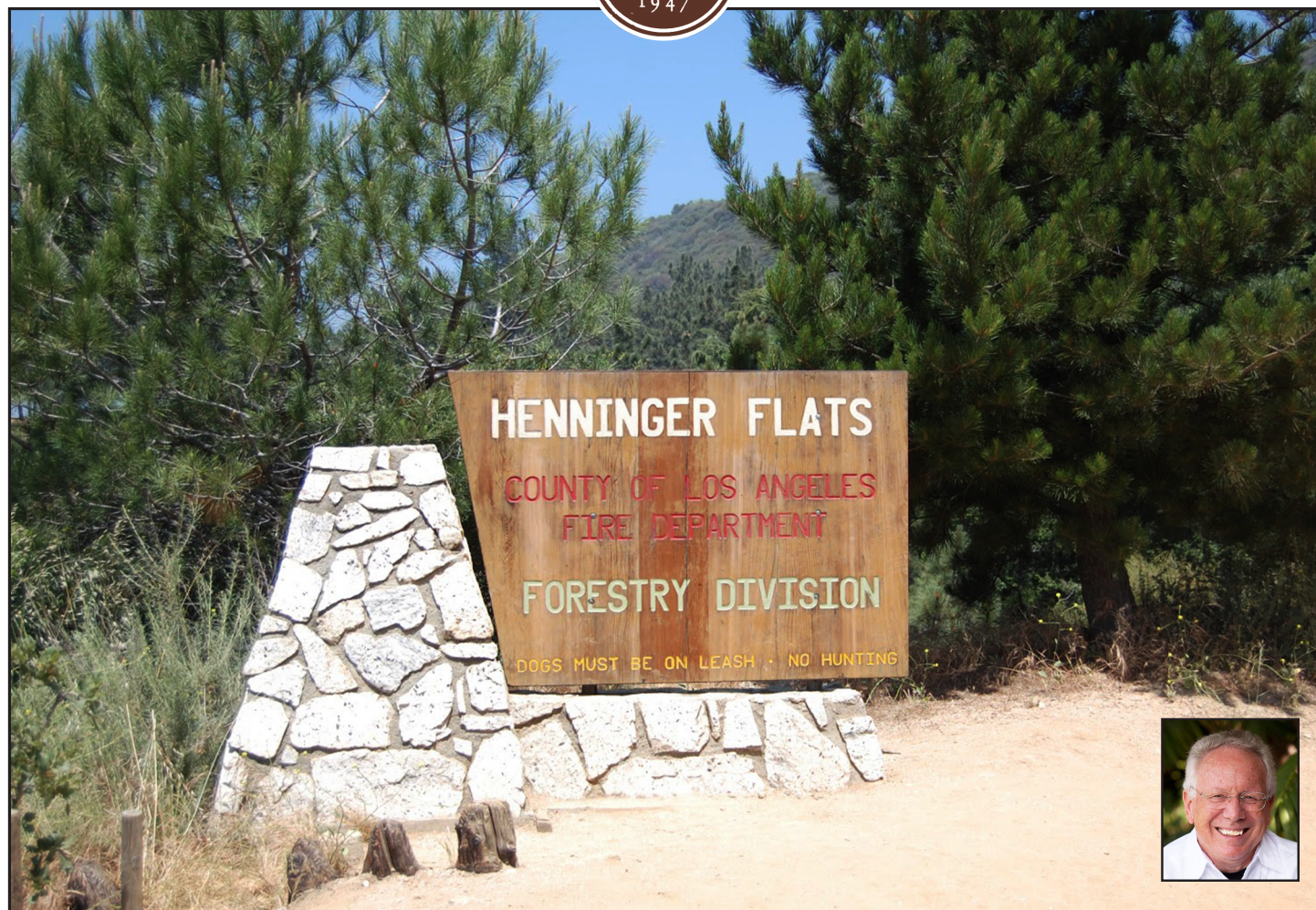
Preserving Our Heritage Since 1947

[www.glendorahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.glendorahistoricalsociety.org)

January-February 2017



Newsletter & Archive



## HENNINGER FLATS

by Paul Rippens, Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County

**When** Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Where** Glendora Public Library, Bidwell Forum 140 S. Glendora Avenue  
**Time** 6:30-8:30pm (Program will begin at 7pm)  
**Cost** FREE and open to the public - Refreshments will be served.

**P**AUL RIPPENS WILL PRESENT a program on Henninger Flats; a property that is owned by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and is located on the old Mount Wilson Toll Road above Pasadena. The property was homesteaded by William K. Henninger around 1880 and went through several hands before being purchased by the County of Los Angeles in 1928. The Department has a forest tree nursery at that location along with a visitors center and campgrounds. The talk covers the history of the “Flats” and tells of the forest fire that burned through the area in 1993. Paul’s book on the history of Henninger Flats will be available for sale following the talk.

### ■ In this issue: ■

Come Join Us -  
Calendar of Events  
Hail to the Chief  
70th Anniversary  
Society Family Album  
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Get Involved  
Take the GHS Survey



# THE GLENDORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Preserving Our Heritage Since 1947*

## GLENDORA MUSEUM

314 North Glendora Avenue  
Glendora, California

Open Saturdays, 11:00am until 2:00pm.

For special tours of the Museum call

**(626) 963-0419**

Rubel Castle tours by appointment only.

For details and reservations, visit our website

**www.glendorahistoricalsociety.org.**

## GENERAL MEETINGS

The GHS program/general meetings will take place: September 26, January 23, March 27, and May 22. All are Monday nights 6:30-9pm in the Glendora Public Library Bidwell Forum, 140 South Glendora Avenue. Our programs are organized in partnership with the Glendora Public Library and are free and open to the public. Times and location subject to change and will be announced.

## BOARD MEETINGS

The next two regularly scheduled Board Meetings will take place Monday, January 16 & February 20 at 6pm in the Rubel Castle Bennett Room. All members are welcome to attend.

Agendas, meeting minutes, and financial reports of previous meetings of the GHS Board are filed at the Museum, and can also be made available upon request in electronic format.

## OFFICERS

### AND EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: ..... Jim Riley  
Vice President of Administration: Steve Bluit Flowers  
Vice President of Museum: ..... Karen Fortus-Garcia  
V.P. of Development: ..... Marlene Flowers-Lamerson  
Vice President of Castle: ..... Jerry Heinrich  
Treasurer: ..... Ruanne Skeels  
Secretary: ..... Steve Edwards

## DIRECTORS

Castle Curator: ..... Patricia Sullivan  
Membership Co-Chair: ..... Janet Sorensen  
Membership Co-Chair: ..... Craig Woods  
Director: ..... Karen Cullen  
Director: ..... Susie Kramer  
Director: ..... Jim Duval  
Director: ..... Leonard Pihlak  
Director (Gift Shop Coordinator): ..... DeDe Tomory

## SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Newsletter Editor: ..... Scott Rubel  
Program Chair: ..... Jim Baker  
Castle Docent Chair: ..... Rona Lunde  
Castle Garden Coordinator: ..... Amy Wolkins  
Sunshine Chair: ..... Carol Tracey  
Hospitality Chair: ..... Olivia Andonian

## NEW MEMBERS

*We are happy to welcome our newest members*

### Patron Membership

**James Hundshamer**

### Contributor Membership

**Brian Stewart**

### Lifetime Membership

**Michael Allawos**

**Sherry Heinrich**

**Janet Stone**

**Richard A. Astin**

**Mary Ellen Lybrand**

### Annual Membership

**Cynthia Allawos**

**Joe Goetz**

**Joy Hancock**

**Paul Lopez**

**Matthew Bartlett**

**Marcia Grady Goetz**

**Debbie Lopez**



**A** VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Steven Bluit Flowers for his over 21 years of volunteer service to the Glendora Historical Society. He has spent many many years as a Saturday docent at the Museum in addition to all the other things he does for the GHS. Steve is going to take a break from Saturday Museum staffing to focus on other GHS activities. Thank you Steve for your commitment to making the Museum a better place – helping

redesign displays, providing research opportunities to the public, educating Glendora's third graders on the school tours, and providing an insightful view of Glendora's history to our visiting public. Steve, we so appreciate you and the time you have spent spending your Saturdays at the Museum! Thank you so much!

— Karen Garcia

## FINANCIAL REPORT - DEC. 2016

Net income for 3 months ending December 31, 2016:

Castle ..... 11,504

Museum ..... (879)

Society ..... (4,866)

**Total ..... 5,726**

Checking Acct ..... 12/31 ..... \$42,668

Reserve Acct ..... 12/31 ..... \$26,552

**Submitted by Ruanne Skeels, Treasurer**

If there are any suggestions, corrections or additions to the Newsletter, please contact **Scott Rubel** via email at: **scott@scottrubel.com**.

If you would like to be on an email list to get announcements between Newsletters, request this from **Craig Woods** at **woods456@roadrunner.com**.



# COME JOIN US



*Upcoming activities for Glendora Historical Society Members and Friends*

~ Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup> ~

**GUIDED TOUR OF THE WHITTIER MUSEUM** and Lunch (no host) at a Local restaurant. Meet at 11:00 am at the Glendora Museum and we will carpool from there.

~ Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup> ~

**MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** – Two showings of “Night at the Museum” 5:30 and 7:00 pm. RSVP your preferred show time at (626) 963-0419. Popcorn and sodas from a small donation.

~ Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> ~

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

~ Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> ~

**RESEARCH DAY AT THE MUSEUM**

~ Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> ~

**LUNCH** (no host) **AT THE SAN DIMAS WALKER HOUSE**, followed with a tour of the Walker House Museum. Meet at Noon at the Glendora Museum if you want to carpool.

~ Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup> ~

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL** at the Museum to Celebrate the Glendora Historical Society's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, followed by a tour at the Rubel Castle.

~ May (date to be announced) ~

**TOUR OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SAN DIMAS EXPERIMENTAL FOREST.**

~ June (date to be announced) ~

**TOUR OF SOUTH PASADENA MUSEUM**, lunch or dinner and shop at the local Farmer's Market.

~ Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>

**GLENDORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INSTALLATION DINNER** at the Rubel Castle.

## SOCIETY FAMILY ALBUM

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**On April 15, 2017, the Society will celebrate its 70th Anniversary.**

In the lead-up to this event, we want to share our best photos and memories of the many events and the great people who led and inspired us.

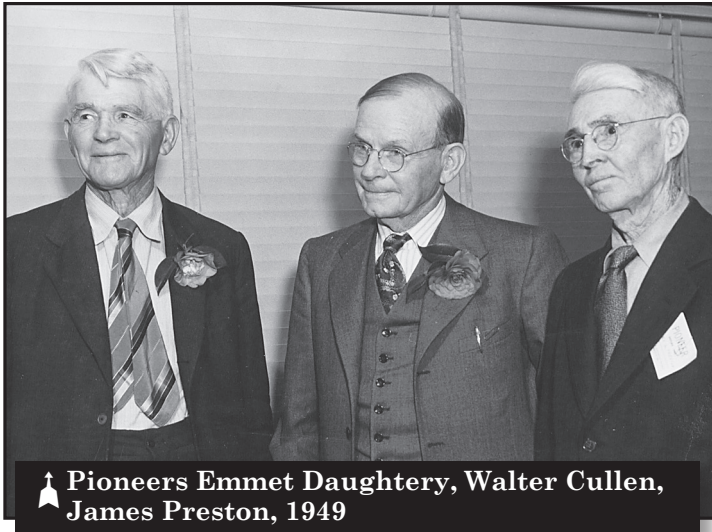
Do **YOU** have photos and memories you'd like to share?

Contact Steven Bluitt Flowers at 626-208-7303, or email him at [Bluitt.Flowers@gmail.com](mailto:Bluitt.Flowers@gmail.com).



*In commemoration of the Society's 70th anniversary, each edition of the Newsletter will feature the people, events, and traditions who have shaped our organization throughout its history.*

## 1940s AND 1950s



↑ **Pioneers Emmet Daughtery, Walter Cullen, James Preston, 1949**



↑ **April 1949 -- H. Paul Keiser (Curator), Glenn Odell (President, 1948-1949), Ruth Kimball, first President of the GHS (1947-1948)**

**T**HE SOCIETY WAS GAVELED INTO EXISTENCE on April 15th, 1947, when **Ruth Pratt Kimball** presided at the first meeting of the Glendora Historical Society Board of Directors. The inaugural Membership meeting of the Society was held on Monday, May 26th, 1947, with 165 names recorded on the Charter Membership Roll.

Pioneer families like the **Cullen's, West's, Shorey's, and Gordon's**, along with individuals like **Helen Bettin, Inez Cook, Albert Gnagy, Margaret Sellers, Rolfe Bidwell**, and numerous others, spent that first decade documenting historical narratives and events, collecting artifacts, and preserving invaluable data of life in Glendora and the upper San Gabriel Valley. Donations came from around town and from far beyond Glendora's borders, with much of the growing Collection being stored at the home of **H. Paul Keiser**, our first Curator. Special arrangements were made for the Archive of maps, diaries, and letters to be secured in a fire-proof vault at the **Glendora Independent Irrigation Company**.

Quarterly Membership meetings of the Society were held at the **Glendora Woman's Club**, with programs consisting of panels, presentations, and sometimes skits. A close relationship was formed with the **Glendora Public Library**, who offered space for a historical display for some of our items. (Library Board President **Louise Thum** and Librarian **Hazel Domer** had called for a town meeting in 1946 to discuss preservation of local history.)

Tragedy struck the Society early with the sudden death of Curator Keiser on September 28, 1951, and the Society knew their growing collection in Keiser's possession needed a permanent home. The Society secured a lease agreement with the City for use of the Old City Hall on Glendora (then Michigan) Avenue, the first civic building in Glendora, built in 1913. The substantial **Society Archive** and the impressive **H. Paul Keiser Memorial Collection** were moved in on April 7th, 1952. A Museum had just been born.

**Louise Thum (President, 1949-1950), and pioneers Lester West and J. Walter Cullen, May 20th 1950**





## THE McDONALD'S BROTHERS IN GLENDORA

**A**S THE PIONEERS had in a bygone age, in 1932 two enterprising brothers from New Hampshire made their way west to California. Richard and Maurice McDonald sought producing and film opportunities in Hollywood, but found themselves attracted to the citrus-farming community of Glendora, where they purchased and refurbished the Mission Theatre (located on the south side of Foothill Boulevard, just west of Glendora Avenue), a movie house built at the height of the Silent Movie Era in the 1920s. Renamed "The Beacon Theatre," the cinema provided employment and escapism at a time Glendora was still very much in the midst of the Great Depression.

The McDonald brothers settled into Glendora life and the community, with Richard McDonald marrying Marjorie Comstock, daughter of longtime councilman and Glendora Mayor Earl Comstock. The McDonald's and others would gather at Walt Wiley's (a juice-and-food stand located on Grand Avenue and Route 66, where Walgreens is today). Richard and Maurice remarked how the boys and girls of Glendora appeared always to have money for hamburgers and soda, if not for a movie ticket. Quickly, the two brothers reasoned they should expand into the food industry, first opening "the Wigwam," a juice stand on Foothill Boulevard in Arcadia, followed in 1937 with a food stand named "the Airodrome"

by the Monrovia airport. By 1940 they found success when they moved the Airodrome (since called the Airdrome) business to San Bernardino, eventually reopening it as "The McDonald Brothers." Today, McDonald's is one of the world's largest restaurant chains, serving 68 million customers daily in 119 countries.

Although Ray Kroc would buy and franchise the McDonald's brand, the Museum is planning a special display honoring the Beacon Theatre, Walt Wiley's, and the memory of the McDonald Brothers of Glendora.

— Steven Bluit Flowers



Autographed photograph of Dick McDonald, 1988



## CASTLE CURATOR REPORT

**L**OOK FOR THE DIGITAL PHOTO DISPLAY in the Tin Palace the next time you are up there. **Sandy Krause** suggested it about three years ago but we didn't get around to it until now. I'm glad we waited as the one we have is motion activated which will be great for the tours. More photos will be added next week.

**Marcia Grady Goetz** is back and cataloging books for us. Her husband **Joe** rewired two floor lamps for us but there is a little more work to be done on them before we start using them. It will be nice to have the dim areas in the Tin Palace lighted.

**Barbara Teater, Sandy Krause and Ruanne Skeels** helped take down some of the Christmas Decorations on our first Friday back after the holidays which was when we found the leak in the ceiling above the cupboard where the storage boxes had been placed. We hadn't planned on clearing up all that water. Still, we did get about halfway done even so and think we can finish next week.

We still need area rugs of any size to cover the floor so if you have any, please drop them off on the Tin Palace porch and let me know so that I can send a thank you letter to you for your income taxes. We are also looking for lamps, any Christmas decorations and anything that will add to the current collections, like miner's lamps, glass insulators, printing press supplies and things no one uses any more. Donations of bottles of hand soap would be appreciated as well.

Just before Christmas a lovely little china cabinet was left on the Tin Palace porch without a note to let me

know where it came from. Would you let me know who dropped it off, please, so I can send a thank you letter. It fits right in with the furnishings already in the Tin Palace.

Our next commercial cleaning will be on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 9 a.m. if you would care to come up and help out. We always need people to clean the caboose and the Bennett Room.

Don't forget that you are more than welcome to come and visit on Fridays. We get there at 9am and we do enjoy seeing you enjoy each other's company when you get together and volunteer. It is your Castle, please use it.

— Patricia Sullivan, Castle Curator

### WISH LIST

ITEMS CONNECTED WITH MICHAEL  
OR ANY OF HIS MENTORS

Bathroom air fresheners

Old shrimp cocktail glasses

Large area carpets

VOLUNTEERS

LOVE

Girl Scout troop 8574 decorated the Tin Palace, Kitchen and Bennett Room this year. They worked extremely hard with their leader Colleen Graves and GHS members, Ruanne Skeels, Barbara Teater, Sandy Krause and Patricia Sullivan to get the decorations up.





## RUBEL PHARM GARDEN BLOOMS

**T**HE PAST FEW YEARS have brought tremendous growth to the Rubel Castle garden and orchard. This change was sparked in large part by volunteer extraordinaire **Amy Wolkins** who began caring for the garden in 2013. As a student in the Master Gardener program, Amy brought fresh enthusiasm, knowledge and new friends to the Castle. Since then, countless volunteers and Rubelians have enjoyed working and playing in the garden. Also thanks to the efforts of several members, we have acquired a dozen rain-barrels which are now collecting rainwater throughout the grounds (most impressively from one roof which fills a chain of five barrels with a good rain). Did you know that for every inch of rain, your roof can collect 0.6 gallons of water per square foot? That means a 1,000 square foot area of roof can capture 600 gallons for every inch of rain! We have been thrilled with the amount of rain over the past month, the trees and plants are looking so happy right now and when the rain ends, we have a new and improved drip system to water the garden the rest of the year.

Another godsend for the garden is **Bonnie Asa**. Bonnie works throughout the garden, but has especially dedicated herself to making the hugelkultur at the south end of her horse corral bloom with flowers and food year round. A hugelkultur is a garden bed made with wood from cut or fallen trees. The wood gets piled up into a mound and then covered with soil. The wood helps retain water, breaks down to feed the plants and creates air pockets for roots to grow.

So many volunteers have contributed to our wild garden, and we are thankful to all of them. In an amazing effort

lead by **Leonard Pihlak** in 2015, a ton of mulch was spread all over the property by dozens of volunteers with shovels and wheelbarrows. Mulch was desperately needed to improve the soil and hold moisture for the trees. **Cyndee Bessant** has contributed many supplies (including a hammock!) and help pulling those terrible morning glories. **Nick Nomic** constructed raised beds and garden fences, adding whimsical touches while creating new entrances and places to sit and enjoy the outdoor space. **Terry Damron** helped tend to our fruit trees and contributed plants and time to improving our little garden in the entryway to the property. **Craig Woods** has helped with tree trimming, moving of heavy things as well as working with Nick to get the rain barrel chain installed.

Looking forward, we have a fresh delivery of rich compost from Athens Services which we will use to feed the trees and enrich our soil. Other hopes for the near future include spreading another thick layer of mulch all around the property and pruning our trees. We also hope to improve our rain capture by adding rain gutters and more barrels. We plan to have at least one big garden work party this year (we will send an email announcement when this happens). In the mean time, if you come by the Castle for visit, you are welcome to stop by the garden and look around. Please just make sure you close the gate behind you so the chickens do not feast on all of our hard work!

Garden wish list: Rain barrels, rain gutters, compost bins, large metal watering cans, a new hammock, and lots and lots of mulch!

— Sandy Krause



Gardener Amy Wolkins celebrates mulch delivery.



Chain O' Barrels set up by Craig Woods and Nick Nomic.



## HAIL TO THE CHIEF



**W**ITH INCORPORATION IN 1911, the City of Glendora became responsible for maintaining law and order. Beginning in 1911, policing was the responsibility of **Dan Fay Sr.**, who held the post of Town Marshal. For 10 years, from 1913 to 1923, the police department and jail were located in the Old City Hall, which is currently home of the Glendora Historical Society Museum. In 1926, **Sam Baxter** was named the first Chief of Police, being assisted by a night watchman named **Milt Squires**. In total, 8 men have served as the city's "top cop." Today, the Chief of Police oversees a department of 54 sworn officers and 45 non-sworn employees, to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude.

While the Society enjoys sharing the history of yesteryear, we also celebrate milestones as they happen in our time.

On February 6th, 2017, history will be made when **Lisa G. Rosales** begins duty as Chief of the Glendora Police Department, the first woman to hold the office in the department's 106-year history.

— Steven Bluit Flowers

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## SURVEY ON THE WAY

### HELP US IMPROVE WITHOUT LEAVING HOME



**H**APPY NEW YEAR from the Membership co-chairs and committee! This year's activities demand engagement from our members. Please contact us about volunteering! We will be announcing opportunities in the newsletters and in emails so make sure you add [GlendoraHistoricalSociety@wildapricot.org](mailto:GlendoraHistoricalSociety@wildapricot.org) to your contacts to keep our emails from going into your spam folder.

To help in making plans for events that will be meaningful and enjoyable to our members we will be sending out a 10 question survey to all members from Survey Monkey very soon. Please take the time to fill this out so we know what kind of programs and activities you would like to us to do. It should only take a few minutes and would really help us out.

As always, if you have any changes in your contact information, especially your email address, please let us know! You can email Janet Sorensen at [janet5000@roadrunner.com](mailto:janet5000@roadrunner.com) or call at 626-482-5698. Additionally we welcome all comments or concerns you might have with your membership, just let us know how we can help!

— Janet Sorensen and Craig Woods, Membership Co-chairs