



# LANTERMAN HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

FALL ~ 2020

## LANTERMAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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## HOURS OF OPERATION

Please see  
[www.lantermanhouse.org](http://www.lantermanhouse.org)  
for most up-to-date hours

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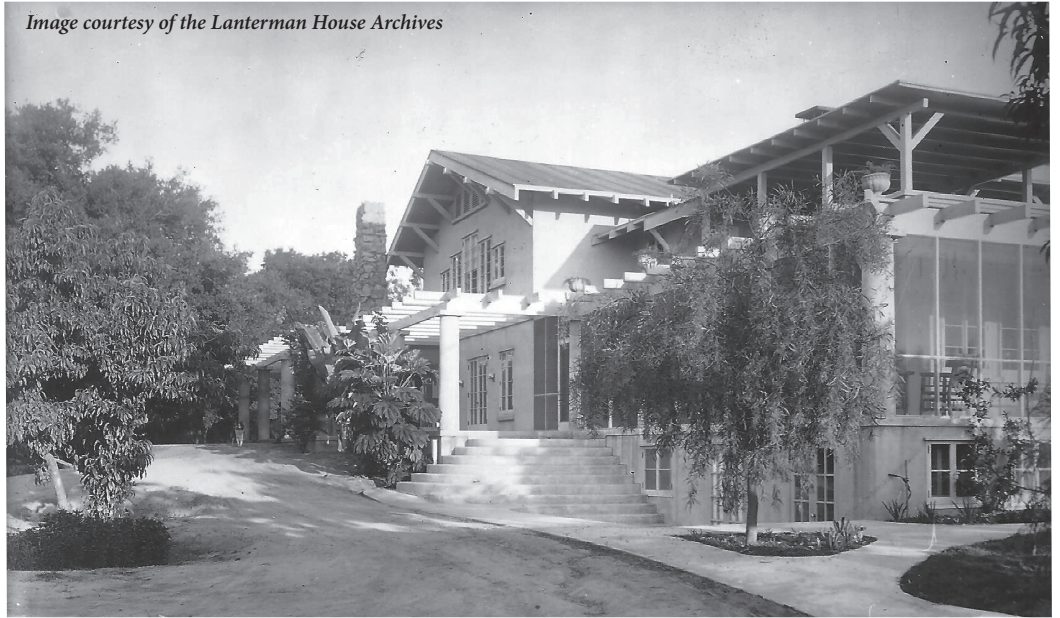
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*Image courtesy of the Lanternman House Archives*



*The southeast corner of the Lanternman House, soon after construction, 1915.*

## THE HOUSE THAT BREATHES

Honoring their heritage as the children of Health Seekers, Roy and Emily Lanternman designed their dream home in 1914 to take advantage of their natural environment to make their lives more comfortable. The Lanternman family was many decades ahead of the “green building” movement and LEED certified building designs which encourage energy efficient buildings.

Taking advantage of La Cañada’s sunny climate, the Lantermans designed their house with what might be called excessive fenestration. The house has numerous banks of windows and doors all around it. There are thirty two sets of French doors, and an equal number of casement windows throughout the house. Large banks of doors and windows adorn the south facing walls of the house, allowing the sun to warm the living spaces during the cool months of the year when the sun is in the south. Wide eaves and extensive pergolas provide shade as the sun’s path moves north in the summer.

The house is situated on the land to take full advantage of local wind patterns. Each day, in the early afternoon, our valley is blessed with a westerly breeze coming off the Pacific Ocean. The two wings of the house on either side of the courtyard reach out to capture that breeze like a great funnel. When the doors and windows of the house are open the breeze blows right through the house, cooling and freshening as it goes. Even the walk-in closets have casement windows that allow the breeze to blow through, airing out the contents.

*(continued on page 5)*

# Letter from the Director

The Lanterman House was built in 1915, three years before the 1918 flu pandemic, commonly known as the Spanish flu. As far as we know, the Lanterman family was spared the flu, although they must have been nervous when their oldest son, Lloyd, enlisted in the Army in June of 1918. He served as a chauffeur for the Army's Flying School detachment at March Air Field. During the height of the pandemic in October 1918, he was quarantined for most of the month. Lloyd Lanterman survived World War I and the pandemic, but one other young man from La Cañada did not. On October 18, 1918, Pvt. Willard Barnum sadly died of pleurisy, caused by the flu, while at training camp in Georgia for the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Lanterman House closed to the public in mid-March due to the 2020 pandemic. We will reopen as soon as the county guidelines allow us. During this time of closure, we've initiated a series of digital projects. We upgraded the content on our website and social media channels; created and delivered digital local history educational content to our teachers; conducted a remote "virtual history" internship program for local high school students, and started a new digital archival collection "Documenting COVID-19" (see page 10 to participate).

We've also been able to perform several important preservation and maintenance tasks at the house during this time of closure. Most significantly, the City recently completed a project to repair and replace sections of the redwood pergola which completely surrounds the house. Once this was completed, the pergola and all of the wood trim of the house was repainted - a truly painstaking task which involved wrapping all of the historic concrete exterior. At the same time, the Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation funded a project to repair the stucco and wood trim on the Visitor Center (the old garage) and repaint it. Both buildings are now sparkling!

We are debuting a socially-distanced tour of the Lanterman House this fall. Lucky for us that the Lanterman family believed in fresh air and outdoor living! Our house is uniquely suited to an "Outdoor-In" tour, where visitors stroll the patio and peek into the house through the many French doors. Our tours will be by reservation only, for single household groups of six or less.

We hope that you join us - whether virtually on our website, Facebook or Instagram sites, or in person, with masks on! And please, consider joining the Lanterman House - your membership funds allow us to keep caring for the house and continue our programming.

~ Laura Verlaque

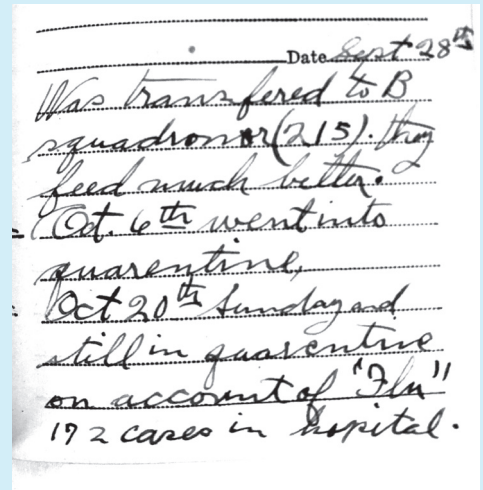


Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives.

A page from Lloyd Lanterman's diary describing his quarantine from the flu in 1918 at March Air Field in Riverside, CA.



Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives.

## Digital Education from the Lanterman House

Did you know the Lanterman House added an "Education" section to their website this spring? Here you can find local history educational resources, from historic photos to lesson plans to activities. There is also a scanned copy of the booklet, *La Canada Flintridge*, which was written and illustrated specifically for elementary school children.

Also new to the website is a local history slide presentation, narrated by Shep, the Lanterman family dog. In an engaging manner, he shares information about our community's geography, natural resources, founding people, and history. The presentation is designed to meet the California State Standards for Social Studies: Grade 3.

**Visit [www.lantermanhouse.org/education](http://www.lantermanhouse.org/education) to explore these resources for yourself!**

Photo above: Shep, the Lanterman family dog with Frank and Lloyd Lanterman. This photo was just discovered this summer while our archivist was cataloguing the Lanterman photo albums as part of the California Revealed grant project.



## *From the Archives:* ON THE ROAD WITH THE LANTERMANS

This summer, the Lanterman House Archives received a California Revealed cataloging grant from the California State Library. The grant allowed me to take a close look at the seven Lanterman photo albums in the archives and create an inventory of all the photos. These albums date between 1867 through the 1940s and contain all sorts of images from formal portraits to candid family photos. A major theme that stood out was the Lantermans' love of travel.

California's "car culture" craze began in the first decades of the 20th century as the state's roads improved and the highway system began to take shape. The Lantermans were certainly not immune. After all, they built a three-car garage before most people in the area even owned their first car. They were fond of road trips, traveling throughout California and the West, driving everywhere from Yosemite National Park to the McKenzie River in Oregon. Photos of family picnics with a car close by are also in abundance.



*Roy Lanterman family on a picnic with car in the background, undated.  
Image courtesy of the Lanterman Family Photograph Album Collection*



*Roy and Emily Lanterman fishing on the McKenzie River, Oregon, undated.  
Image courtesy of the Lanterman Family Photograph Album Collection*



## *From the Archives:* ON THE ROAD WITH THE LANTERMANS

Travel by water was also popular with the Lantermans. They enjoyed using their boat to visit Catalina Island. In 1915, the same year the Lanterman House was completed, the family traveled by ship to San Francisco to view the amazing pavilions at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. More than a decade later, Florence Pate, Lloyd Lanterman's fiancé, traveled from Los Angeles to England via the Panama Canal, providing a detailed photo diary of her 1927-1928 journey.



*Festival Hall at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915.  
Image courtesy of Lanterman Family Photograph Album Collection*



In addition to documenting their travels, the Lanterman family photo albums also include photographs of the family's other favorite place, the Lanterman House. If you would like to learn more about the Lanterman family photo albums, please visit the Lanterman House website or the Online Archive of California at <https://oac.cdlib.org>.

*-Julie Yamashita, Archivist*

*Photo to left: Florence Pate and ship's cat, 1928.*

*Image courtesy of Lanterman Family Photograph Album Collection*



## THE HOUSE THAT BREATHES *(Continued)*



*Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives*

When designing the ballroom, the Lantermans used the natural wind currents to create a convection flow, where warm air would be evacuated from the ballroom through its many doors and windows, drawing cooler air from downstairs up the massive stairway.

*Early view of the courtyard, shaded by the wide eaves and pergola. The small open window on the left offered ventilation to the master bedroom closet.*



*Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives*

*The ballroom, circa 1915, surrounded by four walls of windows. The staircase is on the left side of the photo.*



## THE HOUSE THAT BREATHES *(Continued)*

Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives



*California cooler in butler's pantry*

Inside the butler's pantry, the wonderful vented pantry cupboard system also takes advantage of the wind. The cupboards have vents built into them to draw cool air from the basement and screened porch. The shelves are made of wire to allow air circulation, and there is a plenum across the top and a vent that runs up through the roof. When the air in the cupboards gets warm, it begins to rise. This draws cooler air in from the vents at the bottom and allows the heated air to escape out through the roof. These cupboard systems came to be called "California Coolers" and were very popular through the first two decades of the twentieth century.

However, one element of the building's design works against this passive technology – the choice of concrete as a building material. Roy's experience in San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake had a profound effect on him, leaving him wanting to build an earthquake and fire resistant house. When designing their house, Roy and Emily decided on steel reinforced concrete for the structure. This was a relatively new way of building, especially for personal homes. In addition to providing earthquake and fire safety, the massive concrete walls provide thermal storage and mitigate against rapid temperature changes in the house. This is a two-edged sword, however. It is very difficult to heat the house when the walls are cold in winter, and almost impossible to cool the house when the walls have accumulated heat during long, hot summers. The family added the sleeping porch almost immediately after constructing the house because the bedrooms were too warm for sleeping in during the heat of summer.

*-Bob Moses*

Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives



*Sleeping porch on second floor of Lanterman House, circa 1915.*

# Virtual Interns Expand Our Oral History Collection

Eleven local high school students have something to remember from the pandemic summer of 2020. They were all part of the inaugural group of students to volunteer and complete the Lanterman House's Virtual History Internship program. Designed by Executive Director, Laura Verlaque and Archivist Julie Yamashita, this virtual program added eleven new oral histories to a collection which was started in 1979 by the La Cañada Historical Society and has been preserved and expanded by the Lanterman Archives.

The tape recorder of the 1970s has since been replaced by state-of-the-art technology, which is fortunately adaptable to COVID guidelines for social distancing. Interns received training via ZOOM meetings in research methods, interviewing techniques, how to process and preserve the interview, and legal and ethical guidelines. Interns each chose a member of the community to interview and used a free recording app on their cellphones to record the conversation. They selected a wide variety of La Cañada residents who

spoke about their memories of growing up in La Cañada or choosing our community as a place to raise their families and participate in community organizations.

Oral histories bring events to life. An event such as the pandemic of 2020 is a dry factoid until a personal story is told. As a high school teacher for forty years, I was brought into the project to help train the interns and give feedback on their interview questions. I was so impressed by the resourcefulness and creativity of these interns. It was wonderful to see them building bridges between generations. And I applaud all of the interview candidates who so graciously shared their stories with us.

These oral histories will be added to the California Revealed website by spring of 2021 ([www.californiarevealed.org](http://www.californiarevealed.org)). If you are interested in sharing your story please contact our Archivist, Julie Yamashita, at [lantermanarchives@gmail.com](mailto:lantermanarchives@gmail.com).

-Mary Lou Langedyke

*History is a story well told by the people who lived it.*

## SUMMER 2020 VIRTUAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

**Tate Ahn** (Westridge School) interviewed attorney **Henry Oh** about living in and serving the community of La Cañada. Oh explains how he moved to the area twenty years ago so his children could have quality public schools in a safe and quiet area. His admiration and desire to maintain these characteristics of La Cañada encouraged him to join the city's Planning Commission, becoming its Vice President. Oh discusses how the area has grown more diverse and how he tries to encourage other Korean-Americans to participate in city activities. Finally, he talks about the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on city building and development.

**Tara Brennan** (La Cañada High School) interviewed **Tom Caswell**, who has lived in La Cañada for over 45 years. He and his wife Gale moved to La Cañada

in 1975 where they raised their children and now enjoy retirement from their careers as teachers. Caswell recalls significant local events such as the year La Cañada Flintridge was incorporated, the Sport Chalet Building Complex Controversy, and the Station Fire. He also shares personal stories and insight into what it means to be a part of the La Cañada community.

**Vivien Chen** (LCHS) interviewed **Jonathan Jiang**, research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and former board member of the Foothill Chinese School. He describes the La Cañada area in 1999 when he first came to work at JPL, particularly its Chinese community and cultural diversity. Jiang played an important role in forming the Foothill Chinese School in 2005 and helped lead the Chinese community during its turn for

*(continued on next page)*



# SUMMER 2020 VIRTUAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

the annual Fiesta Days Parade. After living in La Cañada for over 20 years, he explains how the city has changed and how it differs from the other places he has lived, including China, Pasadena, Montrose, and Canada.

**Grace Fontes** (Mayfield Senior School) interviewed La Cañada resident and teacher **Barbara Kuhl** about living in La Cañada for over sixty years. She describes growing up in La Cañada as one of six siblings. Kuhl was inspired to become an educator by her first-grade teacher at St. Bede the Venerable School in La Cañada, the same school where she would go on to teach for over forty years. She taught tennis at the La Cañada Flintridge Community Center and coached the junior varsity team at La Cañada High School for many years. Kuhl also talks about how she found it difficult to teach and interact with her students during the recent global COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lily Fontes** (Mayfield Senior School) interviewed **Mike Smith**, car dealer and La Cañada resident, about living and working in the area. The third-generation owner of a local car dealership, Smith talks about how his family has sold cars to multiple generations of the same families in the community. He also recalls his childhood growing up in rural La Cañada full of undeveloped fields and orange orchards. An active member of St. Bede the Venerable in La Cañada, Smith talks about the role his Catholic faith has played in his education and his family. He also reminisces about the many businesses that have come and gone over the years.

**Adam Kakuk** (LCHS) interviewed retired La Cañada elementary and high school teacher **Judith Healey** about her teaching career and life in La Cañada. After moving to La Cañada in 1985, Healey taught at Paradise Canyon Elementary, La Cañada High School as a drama and English teacher, and at Palm Crest Elementary. An avid hiker, Healey also discusses how the hiking trails around the Crescenta-Cañada Valley have changed over the years. She describes the sense of community and unity that has always been an integral part of La Cañada. Healey also talks about the impact the recent COVID-19 pandemic has had on life in La Cañada and its trail systems.



*(continued on next page)*



## SUMMER 2020 VIRTUAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

**Allison King** (LCHS) interviewed **Linda Labrie**, La Cañada resident since 1979, about her favorite memories of living in the La Cañada area. She talks about her involvement in the community, the La Cañada Flintridge Orthopaedic Guild and the local Catholic Church, St. Bede the Venerable. Labrie is a master catechist and has been very active in music the liturgy program, as well as the Los Angeles archdiocese. She discusses how St. Bede has changed over the years. Finally, Labrie discusses the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected religion and other aspects of local life.

**Leo Masciandaro** (LCHS) interviewed **Tom Reynolds**, business strategist and La Cañada resident for over sixty years, about growing up and living in the city. Reynolds recalls a wide range of events, including what it was like to experience the Civil Rights Movement and the California 2 (SR 2) Freeway being built in the area. He also describes how his children's lives were impacted by growing up in La Cañada. In addition, Reynolds talks about local businesses that are no longer open as well as other businesses that have been able to stand the test of time.

**Jackson Moore** (LCHS) interviewed **Nancy Leininger**, a long-time resident and teacher in La Cañada. They discuss her experiences with race and how she grew up without a lot of diversity in Long Beach. Leininger goes on to discuss how cultural diversity in La Cañada has changed over the years as well as the recent Black Lives Matter movement. As a retired teacher, she also observes how technology and the Internet have affected education in recent years. Finally, the discussion moves on to living during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

**Shelby Perez** (LCHS) interviewed former California State Senator **Carol Liu** about her experiences growing up and the expectations that were placed upon her. Due to her gender, Liu felt she was limited to specific jobs and thus followed an education/teaching route. Liu originally moved to La Cañada 36 years ago because of her husband's job at Southern California Edison and has remained in residency ever since. Her political career began in the La Cañada City Council, later being elected the city's mayor before becoming a State Assemblyman from 2000-2006 and a State Senator from 2008-2016.



*Carol Liu*

**Matt Yoshida** (LCHS) interviewed **Soo Choi**, a life-long La Cañada resident and advocate for education and Korean-American community engagement. She describes what it was like growing up in La Cañada and the changes that have taken place in the education system over the years. Choi recalls what it was like to pursue her interest in architecture, and then eventually work as a banker. She discusses how she has organized local non-profit fundraisers such as the Great Chocolate Race for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, been a member of the Flintridge Guild of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and served as a director of the La Cañada Educational Foundation.



## Documenting COVID-19 in the Crescenta Cañada Valley

We are living through a historic moment. Help future generations understand the reality of COVID-19 by sharing your stories of how you and your family are experiencing the “new normal!”

It’s easy to participate - simply visit [www.lantermanhouse.org](http://www.lantermanhouse.org) to fill out a survey. There is one survey for adults and another survey for kids, grades K-12. All responses will be preserved by the Lanterman House Archives.

Visit [www.lantermanhouse.org](http://www.lantermanhouse.org) to participate!



COVID-19 inspired artwork donated to the Lanterman House by local artist Gretchen Renata, 2020.

## How Else Can You Help?

There are many other ways to document the COVID-19 Experience. Sharing your thoughts and stories with your family and friends through photographs, social media, videos, blogs, and drawing are just a few ways. You do not need to share them with us, but if you would like to, please send them to [lantermanhouse@gmail.com](mailto:lantermanhouse@gmail.com).

## Other suggestions:

- Take photos or short videos of life as you see it
- Interview friends or family members for an oral history
- Journal or blog about your experience
- Record voice memos throughout the day
- Draw or paint what you see



# Fall 2020 CALENDAR



Photo by Haley Flynn

*Under the pergola at Lanterman House.*

## Outside-In Tour

Thursday, September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 2020

6pm or 7:30pm

Enjoy a socially-distanced “Outside-In” tour of the Lanterman House. The Lanterman family planned and built their house with unique features that allowed them to take advantage of the fine Southern California climate. The house is completely surrounded by a patio, which can be accessed by an astonishing number of French doors - thirty-two in total!

This special tour has been developed to introduce visitors to the Lanterman family and their unique house while reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The hour-long docent-led tour will remain outside the house and peek into the Lanterman House interiors.

## Special Restrictions

- Face coverings required at all times.
- A safe distance must be maintained from your guide.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness on the day of your tour, please stay at home and call (818) 790-1421 to cancel your tour. At that time, you may choose to donate the cost of your tickets to the Lanterman House or request a refund.

Each tour limited to a group of six or less from a single household. Advance reservations and pre-payment required. Reserve tickets here: <https://lantermanhouse.brownpapertickets.com/>

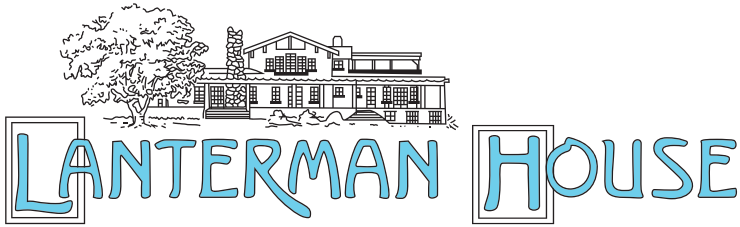
## LA as Subject’s 15th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar

October 17, 2020

Time: TBD

The annual Archives Bazaar goes virtual! See engaging programs, online exhibits, and virtual tours from over 200 Los Angeles-based libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions, including the Lanterman House!

Get the latest info at <https://laassubject.org/archives-bazaar>



4420 ENCINAS DRIVE • LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011  
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lantermanhouse@gmail.com

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HISTORY!

*The Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization, was founded to preserve, restore, operate and display the Lanternman House and Archives for the historic and cultural education and enjoyment of present and future generations of the City and State of California.*

*The Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation is eligible for Corporate Matching Gifts as a 501(c)(3) organization.*

**Contact our Executive Director  
at (818) 790-1421.**

### **LANTERMAN HOUSE**

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La Cañada Flintridge, California 91011

**(818) 790-1421 • lantermanhouse@gmail.com  
www.lantermanhouse.org**

### **JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!**

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*Please make checks payable to  
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