



LANTERMAN HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

FALL ~ 2021

LANTERMAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION

4420 Encinas Drive
 La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011
(818) 790-1421
 lantermanhouse@gmail.com

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday/Thursdays
 Sunday (1st and 3rd)
 1:00 to 4:00pm
 Reservation only @
www.lantermanhouse.org
 Closed Holidays

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Photo of the newly built La Cañada High School, 1964. Photo by Wm. Widmayer, LCUSD Collection, Lanterman House.

La Cañada Unified School District was formed sixty years ago. This article looks back at its first superintendent and his role in a larger national movement. Interested in more history of the school district? The Lanterman Archives contain scrapbooks, clippings, and more from LCUSD.

***The Comings and Goings of Max Rafferty
 La Cañada's Unified School District's First Superintendent***

To anyone over the age of 50, the name Max Rafferty is remembered as a controversial California Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1963 to 1972 who attempted to return education to the fundamentals of American patriotism. The turbulent 60's was a time of great change and challenge - fostering the growing conservative backlash of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. Rafferty, Reagan, and Goldwater were bucking the tide of social and political change while setting the stage for the conservative movement.

Rafferty's entrée into conservative politics began in the newly unified K-12 school district of La Cañada, which formed in 1960. A nationwide search for the first superintendent of LCUSD was conducted by the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools. A screening committee comprised of the deans of the schools of education from USC, UCLA and Long Beach State recommended Max Rafferty to the school district. He had six years' experience leading a K-12 district in Needles, CA. Rafferty commuted to La Cañada to attend meetings in the spring of 1961 which decided on the configuration of the schools and the location of a new high school. Rafferty officially began his duties on July 1, 1961.

(continued on page 4)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Last spring, after much discussion, the Lanterman House Board of Directors voted to revise our mission statement. Now, instead of collecting and exhibiting the history of just the Lanterman family, we have broadened our focus to "engage the public in the discovery, understanding and appreciation of the diverse history and development of the city of La Cañada Flintridge and the Crescenta Cañada Valley." We pledge to be "innovative and inclusive in our approaches to connecting people to their past". This means that we will seek to "include stories of all people and events which have shaped the history of the Crescenta Cañada Valley" and "create exhibits, programs and services that reflect the changing demographics and diversity of the community."

It's an ambitious plan, but we've already made progress. Our Native Plant Garden is one example—not only does it commemorate the landscape that the Lanterman family saw when they first came to this valley, but it serves as a teaching tool for learning about native herbs and plants that the Tongva tribe use. We are showing off the garden and hosting some fun, family friendly activities on November 7th at our Family Free Day. And we also hope to hold our annual Holiday Open House and Gingerbread House Contest on Sunday, December 19.

We have also resumed small, in-person tours of the Lanterman House. If you haven't yet taken our "Outside-In" Tour of the Lanterman House, please call to reserve a spot. It's free to members and offers a unique look at how the family lived and used the house. Please, do check our website before every event for the latest details about safety protocols. We carefully follow all county and city guidelines and appreciate our visitors doing the same.

~ Laura Verlaque

Outside-In Tour



Under the pergola at Lanterman House. Photo by Haley Flynn.

If you are interested in taking a tour, please make a reservation on <https://lantermanhousetour.eventbrite.com>. Tours are offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 1pm and 2:30pm.

Enjoy an 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 weaves in and out of the house, allowing visitors plenty of fresh air.

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.

From the Archives...

~Julie Yamashita, Archivist



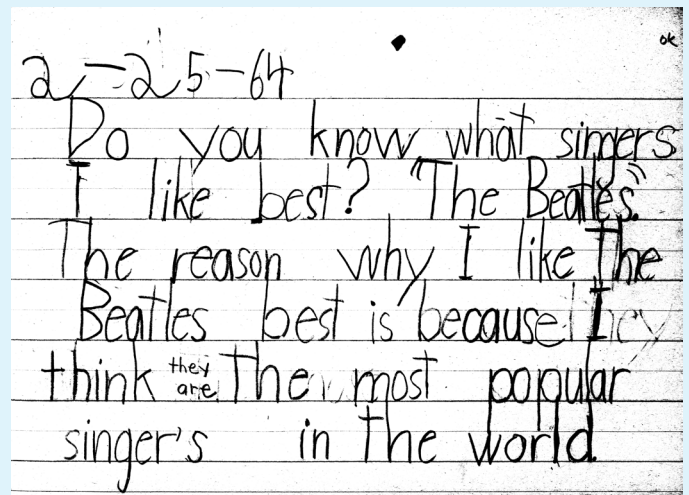
1975 LCUSD publicity photo, from center back clockwise: Student Samantha Phillips, Larry Kline, Tommie Gilmore, Dave Herrman, Don Ziehl, Jean Smoot, Jim Arnet, Coleman Lieber. LCUSD Collection.

Lanternman Archives Holds Many Treasures from the History of La Cañada Schools

The La Cañada Unified School District is celebrating its 60th year in 2021, but there has been a school in the La Cañada area since the late 19th century. The Lanternman House Archives has many materials that tell the story of how the area began with a one room schoolhouse and grew to the prominent school district it is today.

The La Cañada School District (LCUSD) Collection includes class photographs dating back to 1895, as well as photos of class activities and school buildings past and present. Also included are yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks from the different schools in the district. Particularly interesting are two large scrapbooks and a folder of related clippings documenting the formation of the school district in the early 1960s. The tradition of dedicated participation of La Cañada's parents in their children's education is also well documented, with PTA meeting minutes dating from 1911 to the 1950s.

There is an inventory available for the approximately 16 linear feet collection, which is available upon request.



A recent acquisition to the Archives is the Jill A. Tipton Collection, donated by Jill Tipton, who grew up in La Cañada and went to its public schools. The collection includes her original stories, drawings, and schoolwork that she created at Palm Crest Elementary, Foothill Intermediate School, and La Cañada High School between 1963-1971. Tipton's work illustrates the everyday life of a child in La Cañada during the 1960s, from riding her horse to going crazy over the Beatles!

The Comings and Goings of Max Rafferty La Cañada's Unified School District's First Superintendent

For the next nine months, La Cañada was the stage for the rapid rise of the political career of Max Rafferty. It all began with a speech he titled "The Passing of the Patriot". On the evening of June 29, 1961, about 150 community members and district personnel attended a meeting of the School Board to meet the new superintendent. What they heard was a thirty-five minute challenge to return education to the principles of American patriotism and to stop what he perceived to be the dumbing down of the curriculum. A powerful speaker, Rafferty surprised his audience, who were expecting a typical welcome address. The fiery speech was the start of his political career. Outrage and controversy competed with support. Letters flew into the editor of the *La Cañada Valley Sun*. Rafferty explained that, with the threat of Communism, too many students were leaving school unaware of their American heritage and its ideals.

Controversy makes headlines then as now. The *Pasadena Star News* published the speech in its entirety. Rafferty was invited to speak to many nearby community groups throughout the summer. By November, he was making about twenty speeches a month. "The Passing of the Patriot" was published in *Reader's Digest* and in the *Daughters of the American Revolution* magazine, spreading his message to a national audience.

In the fall of 1961, California's long-time State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Roy E. Simpson, announced his retirement. The position of Superintendent of Public Instruction is a non-partisan office which shapes and implements educational policy while overseeing a State School Board. Rafferty's name and educational philosophy had become well known as a result of his speech and his other speaking engagements, especially in the population centers of Southern California—Los Angeles and Orange County—which then and now are critical areas of support to win a statewide race.

The thought of running for Superintendent of Public Instruction may have been introduced to Rafferty by Dr. William Lawlor, at a meeting in July of the La Cañada Kiwanis Club. He mentioned to Rafferty that many were interested in funding a candidate who advocated sound fundamentals. The positive support Rafferty received from so many speaking engagements may have also nurtured the idea. In December, a "Draft Rafferty" column appeared in the *LA Herald Express*. Rafferty met with the bankers and movers and shakers of the California Club, who could offer financial support for an election. Other candidates for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction indicated they would not run, leaving an open field.



Dr. Max Rafferty, circa 1961.

"We as a people have been taunted and reviled and challenged in the last few years—and months—as we thought no one would ever challenge us. A soulless Thing slavers at us today on all continents, under all seas and out into the void of interplanetary space itself—a rotten, hateful, vicious entity. Our national nose has first been tweaked, and then rubbed contemptuously in the dirt. The Flag for which our ancestors bled and died has been torn down and unspeakably defiled by a dozen little pipsqueak comic-opera countries emboldened by our weak-kneed spinelessness and encouraged by our sneering Enemy."

~Max Rafferty

The Passing of the Patriot, 1961

(continued on next page)

The Comings and Goings of Max Rafferty La Cañada's Unified School District's First Superintendent

"I don't know when at long last the American People will rise in all the power and majesty of their great tradition to put an end to this role of international doormat which we have assumed of late, and which becomes us so poorly.

But I do know one thing. When that time comes—and it cannot be far distant—we educators had better not be caught short. We had better not be caught withholding from the Nation's children the wonderful, sharp-edged glittering sword of Patriotism. In a word, this means Indoctrination. An ugly word? I think not. But if it is ugly to teach children to revere the great Americans of the past—to cherish the traditions of our country as holy things—and to hate communism and its creatures like Hell—then I say let's be ugly and let's revel in it."

~Max Rafferty

The Passing of the Patriot, 1961

In the fall, a grassroots campaign to draft Rafferty was started by Mrs. Zan Thompson of Fullerton who sent out 300 letters to potential supporters. Using quotes and summaries from the "Passing of the Patriot" speech worked magic. By February over 2,300 letters were received by her organization showing support for Rafferty. Few had ever met him, merely giving support as a result of a thorough reading of the speech.

While the political world spun, the community of La Cañada had a weighty decision to make. A bond vote needed to be passed to support the construction of the proposed high school. Rafferty expressed concern to the School Board that his speaking engagements might detract from the bond election, but the Board advised him to use his own judgement. The vote was held on February 1, 1962 and passed by an 8 to 1 margin. Now, the question remained - would Rafferty run for public office? The clock was ticking. A decision needed to be made by the election's filing deadline of March 30th. At the March 6th board meeting, Rafferty announced his decision to run, officially resigning from the district on April 1, 1962. Rafferty won the June primary election and the general election in November 1962, gathering generous support from La Cañada voters.

Rafferty served two controversy-filled terms as California's Superintendent of Education, battling activists and educators alike. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 1968, losing to Alan Cranston. His political support came mostly from parents. He did not receive endorsements from major teacher and administrator organizations. Rafferty lost his bid for a third term as Superintendent of Public Instruction. After leaving office, he moved to Alabama where he became the Dean of Education at Troy State University. Rafferty died of drowning as a result of a car accident in 1982 at the age of 65.

Max Rafferty's tenure in La Cañada was extremely short. He was present at the beginning of the K- 12 school district but made little lasting impact on La Cañada schools. He rose to power with a single speech which resonated with a large enough constituency to win statewide election. California in the 50's and 60's was a competitive two-party state. Pat Brown was replaced by Ronald Reagan, and Max Rafferty fit into the politics of the day. One must wonder if his political career would have taken off if he were not in La Cañada and had he not given "The Passing of the Patriot" speech.

~Mary Lou Langedyke



This promotional ruler was handed out during Rafferty's campaign for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1961-62. The ruler was given to the Lanterman Archives in 2020 by Kathy Wales and prompted author Mary Lou Langedyke's research into the story of Max Rafferty.

ROY'S NATIVE PLANT GARDEN: A WORK IN PROGRESS



Lanterman House volunteers Diane Hong, Kathy Linowski and Kathleen Orth care for the native plant garden.

The idea for a garden of native plants that Roy Lanterman might have seen as a boy in the 1870s first came to my mind several years ago. The original idea had been to plant a garden in the grassy area in front of the visitor center, much like the sampler gardens next to visitor centers in national and state parks. Because that area was needed for various picnics and other outdoor events, the idea for the garden was moved to the east end of the vegetable garden by the oak grove. And so, the garden was first planted in the fall of 2019 by volunteers under the guidance of Erin Johnson at the Theodore Payne Foundation. TPF is based in Sun Valley and has been promoting the use of native plants in gardens and educating the public for over sixty years.

Because my own background is mostly self-taught, I enlisted the help of a couple of longtime and experienced gardening friends. Kathleen Orth has a formal horticultural background and has been focusing on California native plants for several decades. Diane Hong brings her interest in and knowledge of medicinal plant uses to our team. We spend a lot of time researching and discussing ideas as well as weeding, trimming, and planting.

There have been and continue to be many fun challenges in maintaining and developing the garden. One challenge is ultimately to fill the vegetable beds with not just California natives, but with natives of the Crescenta-Cañada Valley and surrounding foothills. In other words, we want to fill the beds with the plants that Roy might have encountered as he explored his boyhood countryside.

Natives from more distant parts of California are used as placeholders until the garden team can research and source more local plants. In the past year, we have also tried to add well known plants that are traditionally important to the Tongva (Gabrieleño Indian) people. Eventually, we would like to be able to use the plants for fall seed harvesting and other demonstrations.

Native plant gardening is very different from conventional gardening, which brings us to other challenges. We need to plant natives primarily in the fall. Except when they are very young, we need to water them primarily in the winter. And we need to choose species that are generalist enough to tolerate garden conditions without too much fuss. The generalists put up with less-than-ideal soil types, water allotments, or sun/shade locations. Some plants, like the Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fascicularis*) and California Fuschia (*Epilobium canum*) seem happy enough, while others like the Pitcher Sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*) are more finicky.

There are plenty of challenges still ahead, but the thing for us all to keep remembering is that the new Lanterman House native plant garden is a work in progress. It will be quite a while, probably several years, before it is close enough to being established that we gardeners can maybe finally rest a bit on our laurels. In our case, we would be resting on the native Bay Laurels (*Umbellularia californica*), which yes, is a local native.

- Kathy Linowski

The Lanterman Native Plant Garden Spotlight: Black Sage



Black Sage in the Lanterman native plant garden

Salvia mellifera or black sage is a shrub that is native to this area. It grows from 3 to 6 feet high and can be found in chaparral areas up to about 3,000 ft. in California and Baja California. It has lovely white to lilac-colored petals. In the spring, one can see this plant if hiking up in the local hills.

The word “salvia” means to save or heal. Black sage is anti-inflammatory and used as a pain reliever. It can also be used to flavor soups and stews, much the same way one uses garden sage. It also may be drunk as a mild tea.

The Tongva, a local tribe, traditionally ate the leaves, stems, and seeds of the black sage plant. The seeds were ground into meal. These leaves would be used medicinally by placing heated leaves on an earache or sore throat.

Tongva consider black sage a sacred plant and often use both black and white sage in blessing ceremonies.

How to make Black Sage Tea

This tea is easy to make using dried or fresh leaves. Add about 12 ounces of boiling water to one tablespoon of the leaves and let sit covered for about 10 minutes. Next uncover and add milk or honey if desired.

Then sit back and relax!

~Diane Hong

Spring 2021 Happenings at the Lanterman House



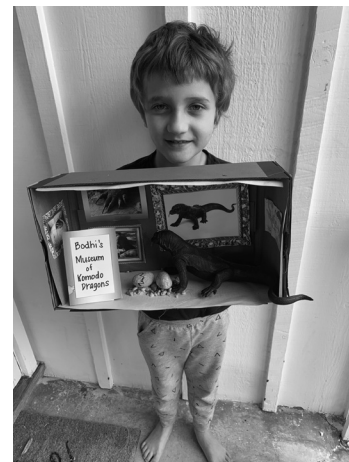
In May, we held the “Make Your Own Museum Contest” with our partner, the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley. The winners won gift certificates to Flintridge Bookstore and Once Upon a Time Bookstore, and their entries were on display in both store windows. This entry, Museum of the Tigress, was made by 6 year old Vivian L. and her grandmother Diana Louie.



(photo to left) School field trips were cancelled during 2020-21 due to the pandemic. Once museums were able to reopen in the spring, we offered free individual family tours to all students and their families living in LCUSD boundaries. Here, a pair of siblings pose with our “Frank” and “Emily” heads - a fun way to keep kids engaged during the tour.



Our grand prize-winning entry, made by mother and son team Darren and Nini, was titled “DJs Dinosaur Museum & Adventures.”



Siblings Skye R. and Bodhi R., age 7, made museums about their favorite topics: Puppies and Komodo Dragons!

The 2nd Annual Virtual History Internship Program

Over the summer of 2021, eleven local high school students successfully completed the Virtual History Internship program at the Lanterman House. The program, which is conducted remotely, began last year during the pandemic as a way of offering experience to students who were not able to volunteer or work in person. Students are trained to conduct and record oral history interviews, which are then permanently archived in the Lanterman House Archives.

This year, interns recorded interviews with people who had experienced significant personal or professional challenges over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program included training in research methods, interview techniques, how to process and preserve an interview, and legal and ethical guidelines. Interns used free recording apps on their smartphones to record the interviews. The interns also received local history lessons from program advisor Mary Lou Langedyke.

Lanterman House Archivist Julie Yamashita has submitted a grant proposal to preserve the interviews in a state-wide database, www.californiarevealed.org. California Revealed is a California State Library initiative that helps public libraries, archives, and other heritage groups digitize, preserve, and provide online access to materials documenting the state's history, art, and cultures. The interviews created by the 2020 Lanterman House interns are available on the California Revealed website already.

The participants in this year's program were:

Shahzareh Ali, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Shahan Atmajian**, Emergency Services Coordinator, City of La Cañada Flintridge.

Ella Baghdassarian, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Mary Virgallito**, Associate Administrator of Quality and Patient Safety at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital and longtime local resident.

Brendan Ehrhart, Loyola High School, who interviewed **Dr. Mark Ewoldsen**, science teacher at La Cañada High School and Principal of the La Canada Education Foundation Summer School.

Anna Heur, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Dr. Tony Chahine**, local optometrist and longtime La Cañada resident.

Adam Jensen, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Ethan Stern**, Executive Director of the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge.

Samuel Khoh, St. Francis High School, who interviewed local resident and award-winning actor, director and producer **Angela Bassett Vance**.

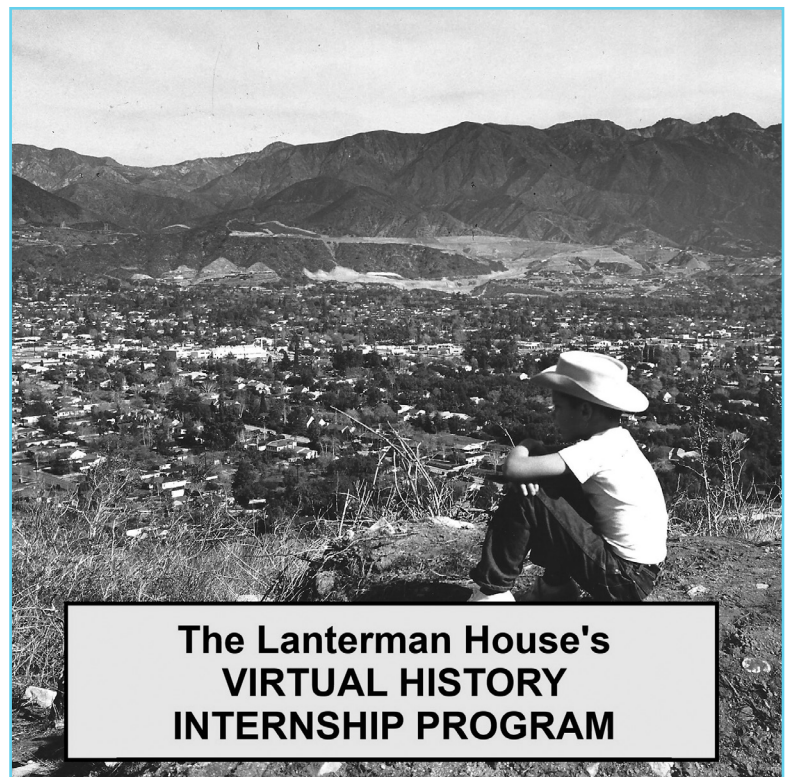
Thomas Kim, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Ann Neilson**, active community volunteer and president of the Assistance League.

Jenna Milbrodt, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Bent Hansen**, owner of local Mexican restaurant, Los Gringos Locos.

Jeseung Park, Crescenta Valley High School, who interviewed **Jenny Franz**, 5th grade teacher at La Cañada Elementary School and lifetime La Cañada Flintridge.

Ella Sahakian, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Jessica Palacios**, manager of Once Upon a Time Bookstore and lifetime La Crescenta resident.

Paige Speaker, La Cañada High School, who interviewed **Kristi Cohen**, Human Resources Administrator for USC Verdugo Hills Hospital who oversaw COVID testing and vaccine distribution for the hospital.



**The Lanterman House's
VIRTUAL HISTORY
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**



Molly and Neal Brockmeyer's kindergarden class, 1944

Childhood, Love, and Life in La Cañada: Meet the Brockmeyers

It's often said that La Cañada Flintridge is the ideal spot to live and raise a family. Neal and Molly Brockmeyer are surely a prime example of the fairy tale La Cañada couple. They first met in kindergarten at La Cañada Elementary School in 1944 and continued together through to La Cañada Junior High and graduated from John Muir High School. Molly taught at La Cañada Elementary School in the same classroom where she attended third grade while Neal attended Stanford and became a lawyer.



Neal and Molly Brockmeyer receiving Kiwanis Awards from realtor Dick Kielholtz, La Cañada Junior High, 1954.

After starting a family, the Brockmeyers dedicated themselves to serving the La Cañada community. They have played significant roles in numerous organizations, including the PTA, the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation, the Assistance League of Flintridge, the Lanterman House, St. George's Episcopal Church, and the La Cañada Trails Council, the YMCA of the Foothills, and the LCHS PTSA.

The Lanterman Archives was recently gifted digital surrogates of treasured photographs and other materials that document this incredible partnership. Items include class photos of the Brockmeyers, yearbooks from La Cañada Junior High School, commencement programs, and World War II ration books. Also of interest are a Christmas play program that lists many familiar La Cañada residents in entertaining roles, as well a glamorous La Cañada Thursday Club debutant presentation photograph at the Bal Blanc de Noel featuring Molly Brockmeyer and Frank Lanterman.

~Julie Yamashita, Archivist

FALL 2021 CALENDAR

PLANNING A CALENDAR OF EVENTS DURING A WORLD-WIDE PANDEMIC IS A CHALLENGE! PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE LANTERMAN HOUSE WEBSITE AT WWW.LANTERMANHOUSE.ORG FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION.

EVENTS CAN BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED.

ALL EVENTS WILL FOLLOW COUNTY AND CITY COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES.



FAMILY FREE DAY: CELEBRATING OUR NATIVE LANDSCAPE

Sunday, November 7

1:00pm to 4:00pm

The Lanterman House celebrates the native landscape of the Crescenta Cañada Valley with this family-friendly outside event. Create a holiday ornament out of native plants, try your hand at grinding acorns and sampling traditional Native American foods, and learn about creating a Tongva-inspired garden. At 2pm, Kat High, the founder of Kidiwische Connections, will teach traditional Native American games.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Sunday, December 19

It's time for the 3rd Annual Lanterman Gingerbread House Contest! The contest is free and open to all ages and skill levels. From tall ones to small ones, we want to see your best gingerbread architecture!

Submissions must be dropped off on Sunday, December 19 between 10am and 12 noon at the Lanterman House. Submissions will be on display during the Holiday Open House from 1-4pm. Visitors may purchase five voting tickets for \$1 to help decide which gingerbread house will receive the People's Choice Special Award. Winners will be announced at the Holiday Open House at 3pm. Winners do not need to be present to win. Gingerbread houses will be judged on imagination, construction, uniformity in baking and overall design. For contest rules and more information, please visit our website at www.lantermanhouse.org



FAMILY FREE DAY: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

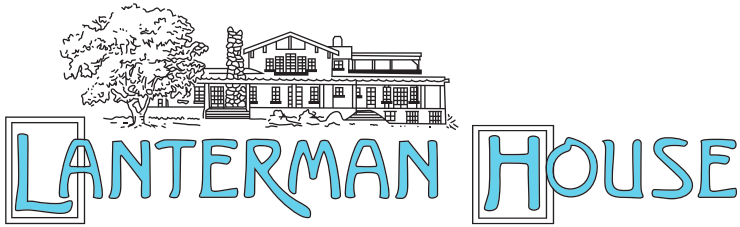
Sunday, December 19, 2021

1pm - 4pm

FREE

Celebrate the holiday season at the Lanterman House! The free event will include peeks into the landmark Lanterman House, light refreshments, and live holiday music.

The 1915 Lanterman House will be festively decorated for the season, including a Christmas tree decorated with botanicals and native plant ornaments. An exhibit tracing the history of gingerbread and Christmases past will be on display. Visitors can create holiday themed ornaments. The Visitor Center will exhibit homemade gingerbread houses, for the third annual Lanterman House Gingerbread Contest. Join the fun and vote for your favorite!



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(818) 790-1421
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

4420 Encinas Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, California 91011

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

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