

# LANTERMAN HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

FALL ~ 2023

**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](http://www.lantermanhouse.org))  
 Closed Holidays

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*Photo courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives*



*The original office of the Valley Sun was located on the corner of Commonwealth and Foothill Blvd. Publisher Dixi Hall humorously remarked, "The office in those days was not well protected and anyone could step right in and assault the editor quite directly." (Valley Sun, April 15, 1971)*

*This article was written by the members of the Lanterman Research Internship Program during the summer of 2023. The student interns spent a month working with the historic local newspapers which are preserved by the Lanterman House Archives. The interns each chose articles from two different issues of the Valley Sun to highlight the history of the paper.*

## LA CAÑADA VALLEY SUN: A CAPSULE OF COMMUNITY

Local newspapers, such as the *La Cañada Valley Sun*, strengthen the bonds between communities and are published as an outlet for civic expression. In 1996 Shirley DeGrey, a devoted *Valley Sun* reporter, wrote an article expressing great appreciation towards the local newspaper. In the article, she wrote, "This newspaper IS La Cañada. Within its pages... are recorded big and small events... community challenges and hope for the future... the quality of life in this wonderful community."

The newspaper was started by Dixi Gail Hall on April 3, 1946. He originally named the paper the *La Cañada Valley Sun*. It was purchased by his printer, Arno Peet, in 1948, who then sold it to Joe DuPlain in 1949. DuPlain published the paper for the next thirty years before selling it to Jerry Bean in 1989. The publication remained locally owned until 2005, when it was bought by the *Los Angeles Times*.

*(continued on page 6)*

## Letter From The Director

It's been a warm summer in La Cañada Flintridge, but inside the Lanterman House Visitor Center we remained blissfully cool, thanks to the new HVAC system that the city installed this summer. This new system allows the staff and volunteers to work in comfort, even when the Lanterman House itself is too warm.

We were certainly glad to have working A/C for our first-ever in-person summer internship class. Four talented students from local high schools spent a month working at the Lanterman House. The internship program was started virtually during the pandemic as a way for us to offer volunteer hours to local students. Over the past four years, more than 30 students have completed the program.

We have several preservation projects going on behind the scenes at the Lanterman House this fall. We are slowly replacing our aging roller blinds in the house – these blinds are invaluable for protecting the delicate decorative and fine arts from sun damage. Additionally, three of our paintings are being cleaned and restored by conservator Maurine St. Gaudens. The Lanterman family collected several paintings of marine scenes by artist John Donovan (1871-1941). Donovan studied art in London, Paris, and Ireland, before marrying the daughter of a San Bernadino rancher and settling in Los Angeles.

Don't forget to check our calendar of events on page 10 and we hope to see you at the house this fall!

*Laura Verlaque*

## The Lanterman Research Internship Program



2023 Lanterman Research Interns Addison Lee, Irene Lee, Sophia Hovhannisyan, and Kiera Horne.

Four local high school students participated in the Lanterman Research Internship Program during the summer of 2023. Their work focused on the history and impact of the city's local newspaper on the community. The student interns studied primary source materials in the Lanterman House Archives, focusing primarily on the archives' collection of local newspapers.

The interns created an online exhibition on the history of the *La Cañada Valley Sun* which you can view on the Lanterman House website. Additionally, the interns interviewed Mike Lawler, local historian and author; Jane Napier Neely, a long-time local journalist; and Charlie Plowman, the publisher of the *Outlook Valley Sun* newspaper. These interviews will become a permanent part of the Lanterman House Archives and will also be submitted to the California Revealed database.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



Portrait of Julia Murray Knight, by Marion Holden Pope. Gift of Susan Knight Sinnott.

### From the Archives: Aunt Julia's Portrait

The Lanterman House was recently given a beautiful oil portrait of Julia Murray Knight, known only to the donor as “Aunt Julia.” Luckily, Julia’s story was preserved in the Lanterman Archives.

In September of 1964, the *La Cañada Valley Sun* published a vignette about Julia Knight crediting her as a “pioneer” who had lived in the La Cañada Valley for over fifty years and had never ceased to be influential in the community.

After graduating from Columbia University, Julia met her future husband T. Fenton Knight in Los Angeles. He was a newspaper man with the *Los Angeles Herald* and later the *Los Angeles Examiner*. His parents, Elizabeth and Jesse Knight of La Cañada, were established citrus growers on Haskell Street (now Angeles Crest Highway). After the birth of their first child, T. Fenton and Julia moved from Los Angeles to La Cañada where they began “ranching” by growing citrus.

Julia became active in the La Cañada community where she first joined the Thursday Club, which had been started by her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Knight. She later became active in PTA, serving as president at one time. Her husband served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the Board of Education, and served as representative of the 48th district of the State Assembly for ten years.

Julia painted throughout her life and often painted scenes from her many travels to present to her friends. Her paintings brought her national recognition, and she was listed in the first *Who's Who of American Women* published in 1959.

The painter of the portrait, artist Marion Pope (1872-1958), studied in San Francisco and Paris, and was for a time under the tutelage of James A. M. Whistler. She lived in Los Angeles from 1905 until 1915. During that time, she collaborated with Charles Edson on the book *Illustrated Los Angeles from the Sierras to the Seas*. Between 1915 and 1940, she also painted portraits of California governors.

It is fitting that the portrait of Julia, a “pioneer” of La Cañada and an artist, has been donated to the Lanterman House. The portrait by artist Marion Pope and the book of poetry she illustrated will be displayed in the Lanterman History Center near the portrait of her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Knight.

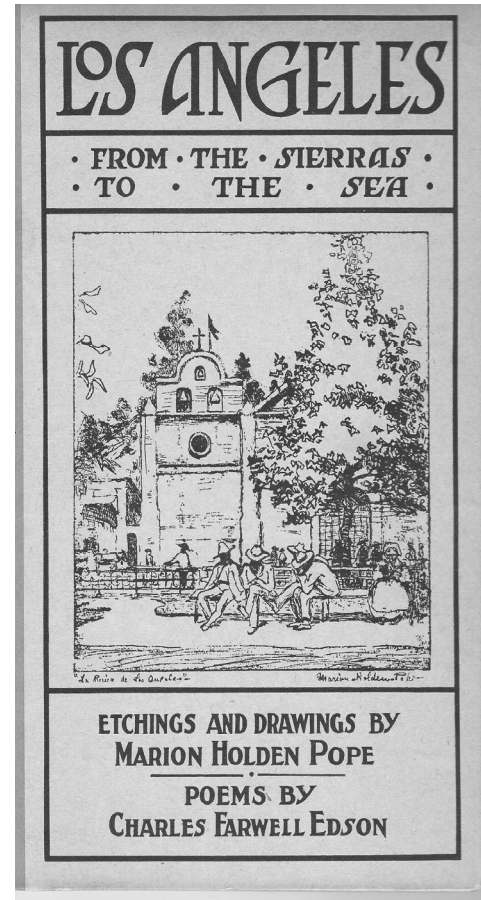
~Kathleen Orth, Lanterman House volunteer



***From the Archives:  
Los Angeles,  
From the Sierras to the Sea***

Charles Farwell Edson (1863-1936) was a composer, musician, and poet. A native of Chicago, he and his wife moved to the Antelope Valley around 1891, and then to Los Angeles in 1900. They were active in artistic and political circles in the city. His wife Katherine Phillips Edson was an influential suffragette.

Edson's book of poems about Los Angeles does not adopt the "Come Here!" theme that many contemporary publications about Los Angeles took, but rather gives his thoughts about 1915 Los Angeles. This was the year Emily and Roy Lanterman were settling into their new home in La Cañada. The Pope/Edson book gives us a snapshot of Los Angeles in that year.



*A copy of the book, signed by Charles Edson, was donated to the Lanterman Archives by Kathleen Orth. The book was published in 1916 by Warren T. Potter, Los Angeles.*

There are twenty-four poems in the book, all with an accompanying illustration by Marion Pope. Subjects range from the La Brea Tar Pits to the Southwest Museum, featuring both natural and manmade sites. In the poem "Our Sierras", Edson beautifully captures the foresight of the designers of the reservoir system for the future water supply of Los Angeles.

*..Our human city with prophetic eye  
Looked to the good of men for years to come;  
Gathered the crystal drops in reservoirs  
Then slipped them down through concrete  
and through steel.  
The mighty mountains store for good of all  
What dewy clouds take from the willing deeps;  
Sweet air-filled drops, Almighty's distillate  
That swells the seeds, washes man's filth away  
For thus the living water comes to bless  
Then turns again to breast of Mother Sea.*



*Our Sierras,  
etching by Marion Holden Pope*



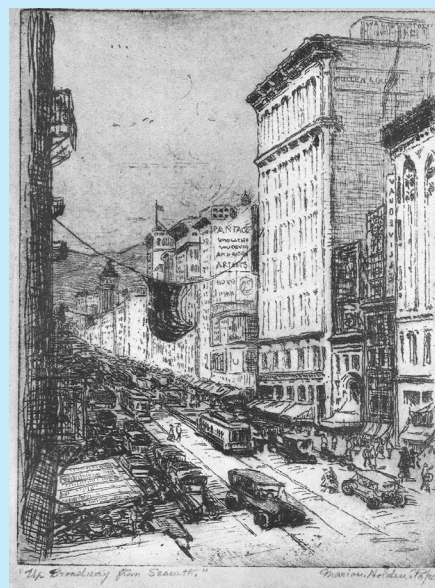
*Down Broadway from Temple,  
etching by Marion Holden Popes*

In "Down Broadway from Temple", Edson describes the area that then held administrative, legal, and justice functions. The "outgrown City Hall" that Edson references was replaced in 1928 by a new thirty-two floor building, the current Los Angeles City Hall.

*Blindfolded Justice sits, a sombre thing  
In courts of men who quibble over law!  
Here also are the records of our age  
In written books of transfers and of trades.  
Far down the street an outgrown City Hall  
Where our wise Solons talk efficiency.*

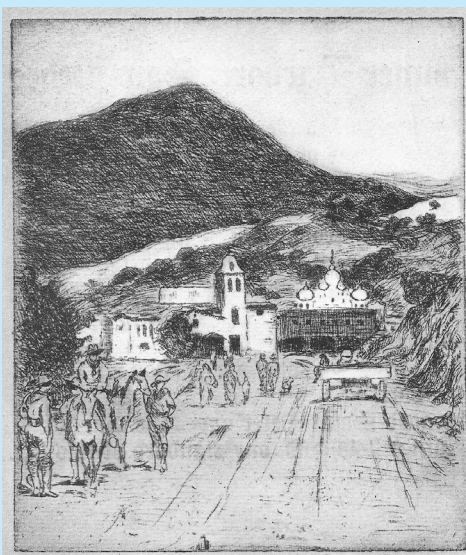
Among Edson's descriptions of downtown streets is the poem "Up Broadway from Seventh".

*This is the woman's street and day by day  
They throng the walk-in gingham and in silks;  
Dainty and debonair, lonely and rich  
They ride in limousines or walk on foot;  
Poor weary mothers dragging worn-out boys;  
A flock of school girls down from L.A. High  
While far beyond in clear-cut afterglow  
The peaceful mountains marvel at our haste.*



*Up Broadway From Seventh,  
etching by Marion Holden Pope*

Not to leave out the film industry of the time, Edson comments on "Universal City" and the change from silents to talkies.



*Universal City, etching by Marion Holden Pope*

*The movie stars shine in this firmament  
Fixed for a fleeting time upon Life's screen;  
Silent as yet, but soon Art's witchery  
Will catch their voices for posterity.  
All far-off lands are brought before your gaze;  
Hobos and Kings upon equality  
And each quaint phase of God-made earth is here  
Seen through a film, not darkly, but alight;  
The World a Stage! Humanity the Play!  
And no drop curtain falls until Life dies.*

~Kathleen Orth, Lanterman House volunteer



# THE VALLEY SUN THROUGH THE DECADES



Valley Sun staff celebrate the 25th anniversary of the paper (April 15, 1971). Photo by Henry Kirk.

In 2020, the paper was purchased by the Outlook Newspaper Group who renamed it the *La Cañada Flintridge Outlook Valley Sun*. Current owner and publisher Charlie Plowman got his start in the newspaper business as a sportswriter for the *Valley Sun*. *The Valley Sun* aimed to reflect what was important to the community, including various articles covering clubs, education, sports, religion, and local businesses. Through the years, the *Valley Sun* has stayed true to remaining independent and publishing strictly local affairs.

In the small community of La Cañada, the town put continued emphasis on the importance of education within the community. The September 4, 1946 issue of the *Valley Sun* documented how the School Board approved of the new architectural additions to La Cañada Elementary. The expansion of the school system reflected the era of tremendous population growth in La Cañada, post-World War II. *Valley Sun* reporting included exact locations of school bus stops en route to Marshall Junior High and Elliot Junior High. La Cañada junior and senior high school students attended Pasadena schools as La Cañada Unified District was not yet founded.



September 4, 1946 Valley Sun

A Free Gift awaits each "Jewel" of a bride at

**JEWEL'S**  
Jewel Cooke  
724 North Brand  
Cl. 4-2705 - Glendale

**for the Bride!**  
Bridal Gowns  
and Accessories  
Bridesmaids Gowns

Free Alterations  
On Bridal Gowns

September 6, 1956 Valley Sun

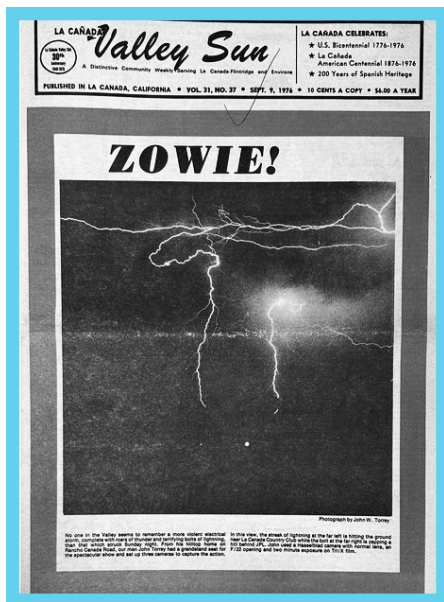
The September 6, 1956 issue featured an advertisement for Jewel's, a jewelry store located in Glendale. The *La Cañada Valley Sun* focused heavily on advertisements targeting women of all ages. Advertisements geared towards weddings and engagements were popular features.





September 22, 1966 Valley Sun

In the September 22, 1966 issue, the *Valley Sun* profiled the La Cañada High School Football team in order to foster community spirit. It was the start of the school year, and the sports section was one of the leading topics in the September issues. Seen through the captions reading, “Cross-town foe” and “Spartan-Falcon Clash,” it is evident that the valley rivalry was in full swing—no different than what exists today.



The early covers of the *Valley Sun* were always something to look forward to. Before the *Los Angeles Times* bought the *Valley Sun* in 2005, the covers of the newspaper displayed large images, often including Rose Queens, football games, and weather. After the change of ownership, the *Valley Sun* stopped including covers to their papers. Instead, they dove right into the articles, similar to a traditional newspaper.



VISIT THE ONLINE EXHIBITION at [www.lantermanhouse.org](http://www.lantermanhouse.org)

~Written by Lanterman Research Interns: Kiera Horne, Sophia Hovhannisyan, Addison Lee, and Irene Lee



# Happy Birthday to Us!

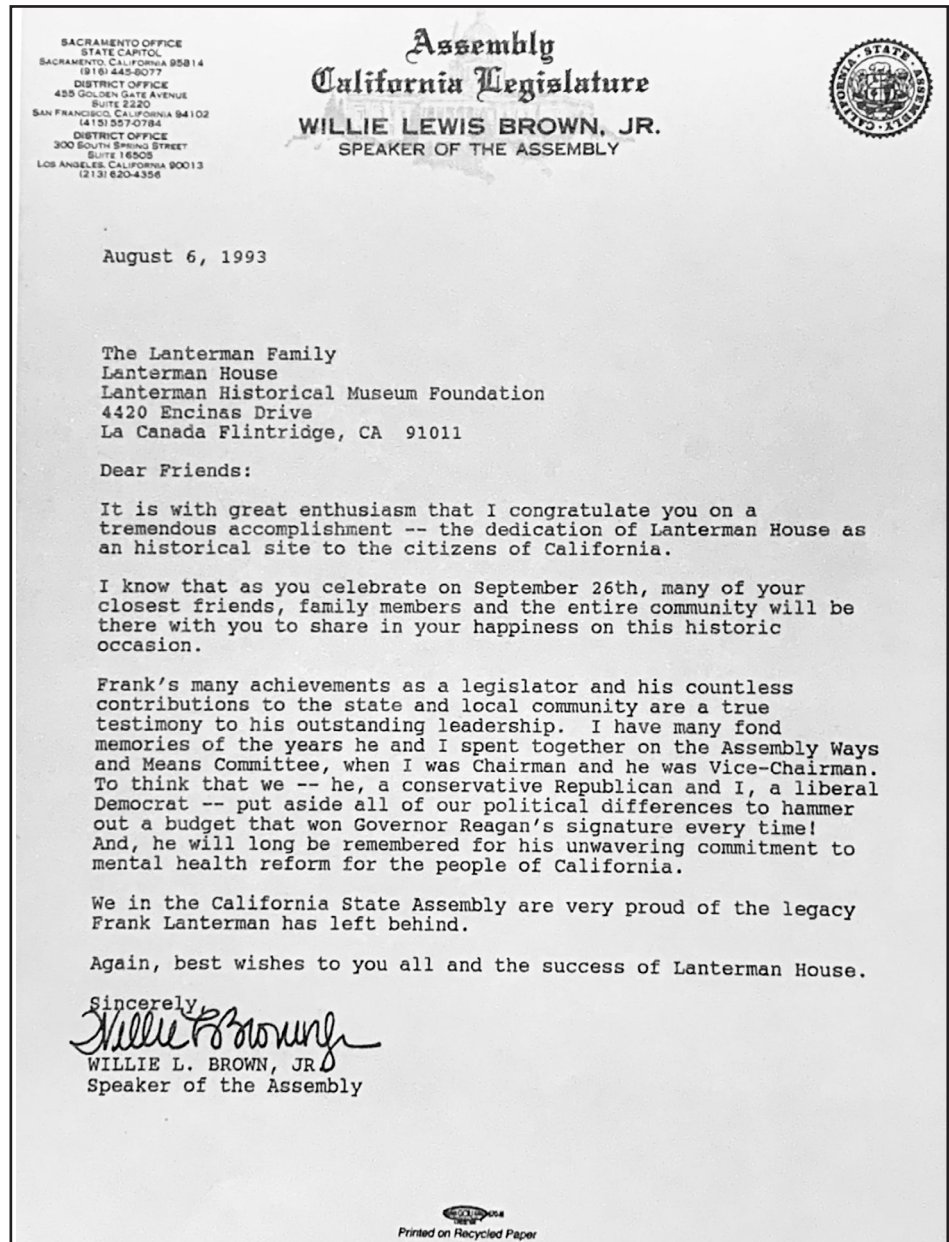
The Lanterman House celebrated the completion of its first phase of restoration and opening as a museum exactly 30 years ago on September 26, 1993. The Foundation held a dedication ceremony and community open house that day to thank the many people and organizations who had been involved in saving and restoring the house.

30 years on...we're thriving and so grateful!

## The Original Board of Directors of the Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation

Sue F. Schechter, President  
Gary Zentmyer, First Vice-President  
Fran Courtney, Second Vice-President  
Nancy Francis, Secretary  
Marjorie Dryer, Treasurer  
Melissa Patton, Executive Director  
Eugene Burrows, Honorary Director

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Shirley DeGrey  
Ann Jones  
O. Warren Hillgren  
Frances Hill  
Arlene Kushida  
Ann Neilson  
Darold Pieper  
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James Stauffer  
Molly Brockmeyer  
Shirley DeGrey  
Ann Jones  
O. Warren Hillgren  
Frances Hill  
Arlene Kushida  
Ann Neilson  
Darold Pieper  
Bixby Smith  
James Stauffer  
Julia Thomas  
Joy Wilson



*The Foundation published a commemorative booklet to mark the dedication of the museum in 1993. It was filled with congratulatory letters from members of local and statewide government, including this one from Speaker of the Assembly, Willie L. Brown.*



# Spring 2023 Happenings at the Lanterman House



*In March, the Lanterman House hosted a Member Reception to honor retiring board members Joe Thompson, Peter Breckheimer, Christy Schober, and the late Ann Neilson. Retiring City Manager Mark Alexander also received a special thank you and gift from the Lanterman House for his decades of dedicated oversight of the historic property (shown here with Lanterman House Board member Randy Strapazon).*



*Eagle Scout Walker Andrews and volunteers from Scout Troop 509 rebuilt the trash enclosure out of a beautiful long-lasting redwood.*



*Picnicking, music, and dancing returned to the Lanterman House in the spring with the return of the Ragtime Dance in March and the Summer Picnic in May.*



*The Bargain Box Thrift Shop, run by the Assistance League of Flintridge, set up a popular booth during the Summer Picnic. Photo by Bill Weber.*

# Fall 2023 - Calendar of Events

Please be sure to check the Lanterman House website at [www.lantermanhouse.org](http://www.lantermanhouse.org) for the most recent information.



*In the living room of the Lanterman House.  
Photo by Bill Weber.*

## Docent-led Tours of the Lanterman House

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. Please email if you need to request a different time.

The Lanterman House offers guided tours of the fully restored building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours are led by trained docents and last approximately 60 minutes. Self-guided tours are not available. All tours begin at the Visitor Center located inside the converted garage at the rear of the property. Visitors can also enjoy a preliminary history video in the Visitor Center.

## Volunteers Needed!

Join our dedicated team of volunteers at the Lanterman House! Volunteers can train to become docents, offer hospitality and organizational support for special events, join the gardening team, or assist with behind-the-scenes activities such as holiday decorating or preparing social media posts.

Volunteers are asked to become members of the Lanterman House and attend four to six one-hour training sessions to learn about the history of the family and their home.

An informal coffee hour will be held on **Thursday, October 12** at 10:30am to explain the volunteer program. The volunteer training will be held weekly on Thursday mornings from 10-19 through 11-9. Please contact Laura Verlaque at (818) 790-1421 or via email at [lantermanhouse@gmail.com](mailto:lantermanhouse@gmail.com) for more information. Individualized training and time commitments can be arranged.



*Lanterman House volunteers enjoyed a field trip to the quilt exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History in June.*



*Dance historian Walter Nelson and friends.*

## Free Lecture: Social Dance in the Age of Ragtime: 1890-1920

*Sunday, October 1  
2:30pm*

The advent of an exciting and subversive musical style called Ragtime at the dawn of the 20th century also brought about new forms of dance. Dance historian Walter Nelson, making extensive use of films from the era, will lead a lively discussion on the evolution of social dance from the period 1890 to 1920.

No reservations required; however, seating is limited to 50.

*(continued on next page)*



# Fall 2023 - Calendar of Events

## FREE LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING:

*California & the Politics of Disability, 1850-1970*  
Sunday, October 15  
2:30pm

Dr. Eileen Wallis, professor at Cal Poly Pomona, will discuss her recent book which explores the political, legal, medical, and social battles that led to the widespread institutionalization of Californians with disabilities from the gold rush to the 1970s. She focuses on the infighting between state government and Los Angeles County over providing care for Californians with developmental and mental disabilities, culminating in the 1960s with the birth of the disability rights movement and the complete rewriting of California's laws on the treatment and rights of Californians with disabilities.



*"California State Mental Health Funds Get \$18 Million Boost under Bipartisan Agreement with Governor Ronald Reagan, August 1974."*  
Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives.



## LANTERMAN RADIO ROUNDUP:

*Tales from the Dark Side*  
Sunday, November 5  
2:30pm

The historic Lanterman House ballroom will be the setting for a live performance of classic spooky radio plays from the Golden Age of Radio. Each performance will have live musical accompaniment, sound effects and audience participation.

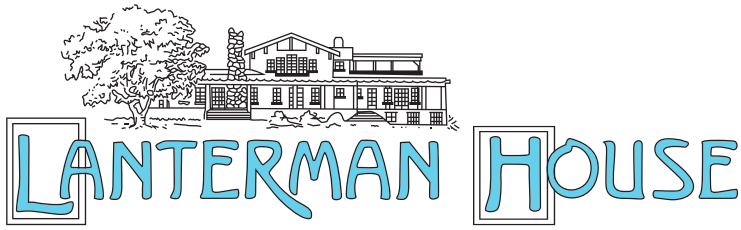
No reservations required for this free event; however, seating is limited to 60.



## FAMILY FREE DAY: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 17  
1:00 to 4:00 pm

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. There will be craft tables for visitors to create holiday themed ornaments. Visitors can also shop at a Holiday Boutique, filled with hand-crafted art, ceramics and other gifts made by local artists, including members of the Verdugo Hills Art Association.



4420 ENCINAS DRIVE • LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011  
(818) 790-1421  
lantermanhouse@gmail.com

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HISTORY!

*The Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization, collects, preserves, and shares the resources of the Lanternman House and Archives in order to engage the public in the discovery, understanding, and appreciation of the diverse history and development of La Cañada Flintridge and the Crescenta Cañada Valley.*

*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**

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

- |                          |            |       |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate  | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustainer  | \$60  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sponsor    | \$35  |

*Please make checks payable to  
the Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation*

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