

LANTERMAN HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING ~ 2023

LANTERMAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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

Hours of Operation

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

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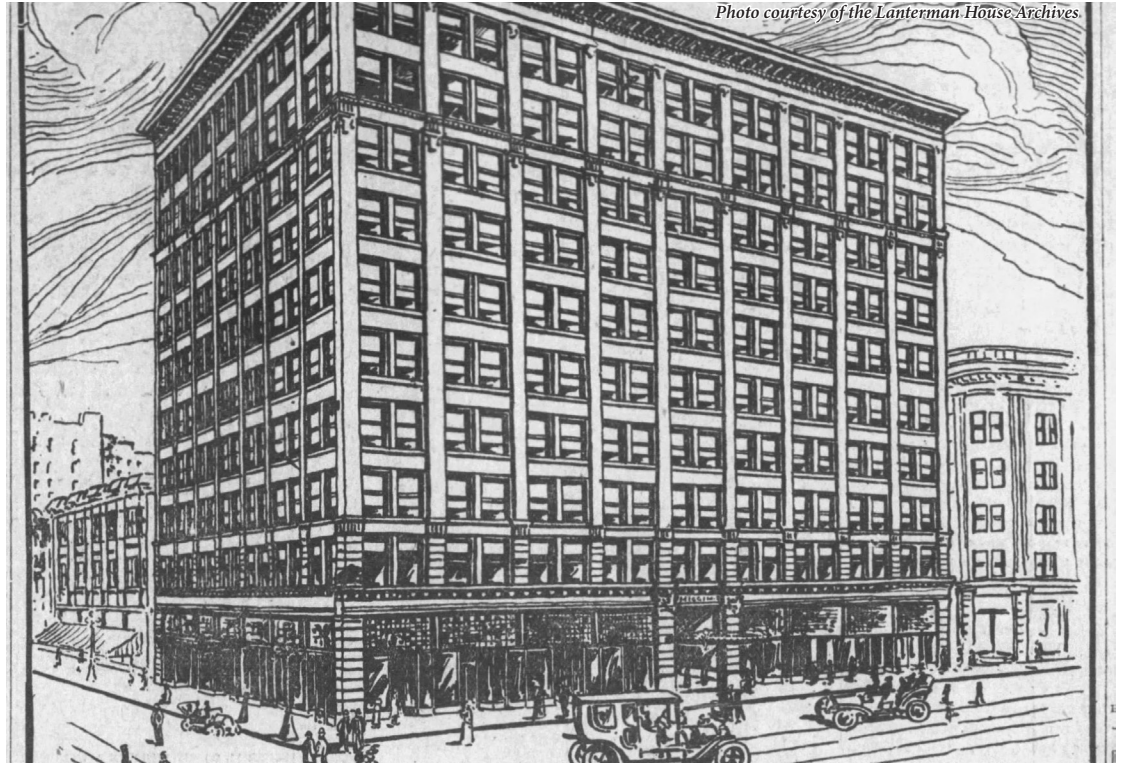


Photo courtesy of the Lanternman House Archives

Haley's masterpiece, the ten-story reinforced concrete Higgins Building, June 3, 1905, Los Angeles Times.

ARTHUR L. HALEY: FORGOTTEN ARCHITECT OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

Arthur L. Haley (1865-1925) is probably best known to those in the Crescenta Cañada Valley as the architect of the Lanternman House, which was completed in 1915. But Haley's career prior to this was full of projects that were instrumental in the development of downtown Los Angeles during the first years of the twentieth century. Apartments, skyscrapers, business buildings, residential homes, and even an enormous theater were just some of the types of structures that Haley was asked to design. All these buildings were a preface to the modern conveniences that would later be seen in the Lanternman House, especially those relating to fire protection and air circulation.

Arthur Lawrence Haley was born June 28, 1865. Many of his family members were notable architects in Minneapolis, Minnesota, including his father and many of his brothers. The young Arthur Haley showed talent from the start. He won a competition for plans for the Blue Earth County courthouse in Mankato, Minnesota in his early twenties. It was built between 1886 and 1889 at a cost of \$200,000. Haley moved to California in the 1890s, moving back and forth between San Francisco and Los Angeles until finally settling in Los Angeles in 1900. His whirlwind career designing a large portion of a fledgling downtown Los Angeles was about to begin.

(continued on page 5)

Letter From The Director

We enjoyed a busy fall season at the Lanterman House with our student tours, group tours and our regular reserved tours in high demand. We also offered two free lectures and the annual Holiday Open House for the community. Several new docents completed a six-week training course and began leading tours. In October, our volunteers visited the Gamble House for a wonderful tour.



Our spring calendar is equally busy. For the first time in three years, we are offering our annual Ragtime Dance in the ballroom and our free community picnic on Memorial Day weekend. We also have a full calendar of lectures and other interesting events. Please join us!

~ Laura Verlaque

A Remembrance Ann Neilson 1936 - 2023



Ann Neilson was part of the Lanterman House story since its very beginning as a historic house museum. She played an integral role in the community discussions designating the house as a museum, helped create the Lanterman Historic House Museum Foundation and served as a member of Board until June 2022. She was also one of our very first, and probably longest-serving, house docents. Anyone who worked with her at the Lanterman House over the years would echo the words of Bob Moses, "She was a wonderful friend for a long time, she brought insight, strong leadership skills and a wonderful sense of humor to everything she did... and she did a lot." Ann offered us all her calm presence and guidance, often reminding us "to stop and take a look at how far we have come." Her wisdom, kindness and sense of humor will be missed. And thanks to Ann's guidance the Lanterman House is what it is today - an integral part of our community.



Ann Neilson and fellow docents Mary Lou Langedyke, Kathy Linowski, Christy Schober, and Beth Neilson, 2018.

On behalf of the Lanterman Board and our volunteers, we would like to extend our sympathy to Ann's family, her daughters Beth, Karen and Nancy and her son Jim.

Laura Verlaque,
Executive Director

Mary Lou Langedyke,
Lanterman Museum Foundation President

Mission of Mercy: Dr. Lanterman & the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

BUSY NURSES IN THE HEARST RELIEF HOSPITAL AT JEFFERSON SQUARE



Illustration of the relief hospital, probably published in a Hearst newspaper. This clipping is pasted into the Lanterman scrapbook.

One of the fascinating artifacts contained in the Lanterman Archives is a tattered scrapbook, pasted with newspaper clippings, photographs and memorabilia documenting Dr. Roy Lanterman's part in a relief mission to the devastated city of San Francisco after the earthquake of 1906.

On April 18, 1906, a great earthquake struck the city of San Francisco, California. More than 500 city blocks were destroyed and there were an estimated 3,000 fatalities and 200,000 homeless. Fires further devastated the city over the next three days.

Los Angeles-based physician Dr. Roy Lanterman joined a relief mission of medical personnel from Los Angeles, sponsored by the Los Angeles Examiner and its publisher, William Randolph Hearst. The relief mission arrived in the evening of April 19 into a landscape of confusion and despair. "The smoke was stifling, and added to that we caught the sickening fumes of burning flesh. The streets were practically impassible because of the falling buildings," stated Dr. Lanterman. "It was an awful, lonesome night. The glow of the sky was all we had to light us in our work. To add to the awfulness an occasional building would topple over with a crash."

After wandering the devastated streets and administering first aid for almost 72 hours, Dr. Lanterman set up the first emergency hospital in the Jefferson Athletic Club, near Jefferson Square, a park a few blocks from San Francisco's City Hall. A newspaper reported, "It does not look much like a park now. For the past three days it has sheltered thousands of homeless ones and tents and crude wooden shacks cover the lawns." Dr. Lanterman enlisted the aid of the military to gather necessary supplies from local businesses, even going so far as to commandeer the automobile of the mayor.

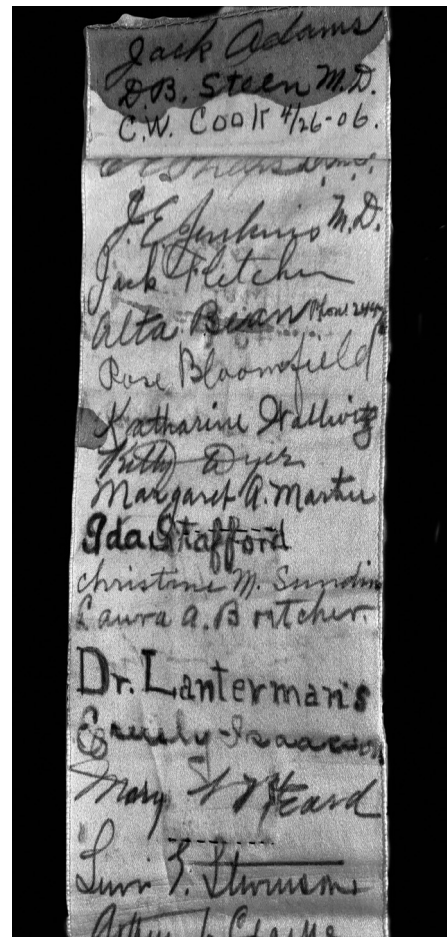
Over the next two weeks, Dr. Lanterman and his staff treated more than 2,000 patients. "Had 'em packed in here so tight around," said Dr. Lanterman. "With all this talk about smallpox, we thought it would be well to begin vaccinating, so I got my soldiers, had them line the people up and went at it. Maybe we established a new record for that kind of work. We vaccinated 104 people in just 36 minutes by the watch."

The labor was harsh and unrelenting. In a letter to his wife, dated five days after he arrived, Dr. Lanterman wrote: "This evening is the first time I have had any chance of writing you. I have been very busy & much to tell you when I return which will be some time. You can get a much better description of the fearfulness of this catastrophe from the papers. I am so very tired tonight. I have not had my clothes off for three nights & I trust I leave here before some poor soul, for I am about dead myself. The city is a thing of the past. Only about 1/6 of the residential part of it standing. All the business part gone. I am so tired dear. I must stop..."

By May 1, the patient numbers in the hospital dwindled to twenty-seven and they decided to close the hospital. The Brigadier General of the Army praised Dr. Lanterman's service. The exhausted group of volunteers from Los Angeles made their way home, stopping at the Hotel Paso Robles, where they enjoyed the pool and the first bath they'd had since leaving Los Angeles!

Dr. Lanterman's direct experience with the devastation caused by earthquake and fire may have influenced him when he built his own residence several years later. He chose an architect with experience in the relatively-new fireproof medium of reinforced concrete. The Lanterman House is built almost entirely of this material by architect Arthur L. Haley.

~Laura Verlaque, Executive Director



The doctors, nurses and other emergency personnel from Los Angeles all signed this commemorative ribbon which is carefully pasted into the Lanterman scrapbook.



Enjoying the pool at Hotel Paso Robles.



The hospital located in the Jefferson Athletic Club.

(continued from page 1)



Portrait of Arthur L. Haley, 1910 from Los Angeles and Southern California Portraits, edited by Robert Jones Burdette.

While a comprehensive account of all Haley-designed buildings does not exist, there is evidence that Arthur Haley was an architect as much in demand as better remembered colleagues as Myron Hunt, John Parkinson, and R. B. Young. Indeed, during the first decade of the twentieth century, not a day went by that at least one new Arthur Haley building project was announced in the newspapers. Haley simultaneously worked on plans for apartments, skyscrapers, private residences, mixed-use structures, industrial buildings, and factories. He was also well-known for designing these structures using numerous architectural styles, from Beaux-Arts to Mission Revival to Rococo, depending upon the desires of his clients.

With a booming population in Los Angeles from a mere 50,000 in 1890 to over 300,000 by the 1910s, there was a need for compact housing for the influx of people coming into the downtown Los Angeles area. Migrants from both overseas and middle America sought out the new metropolis in search of their American Dream. Arthur Haley excelled at creating apartment buildings, designing at least four dozen of them in the Los Angeles area alone. His goal was to make each apartment the most space efficient yet be "equipped with every modern convenience." Many of these apartments were advertised featuring some of Haley's own inventions, including his "Sanitary Concealed Metal Beds," which were Murphy beds that were kept hygienic through constant ventilation while folded up. In addition, there were also stoves that served as both cooking devices and room heaters, as well as Haley invented seating that also folded into the wall when not in use. Most apartment houses also featured a rooftop sunroom and garden for the residents to take in the healing California sun and air.

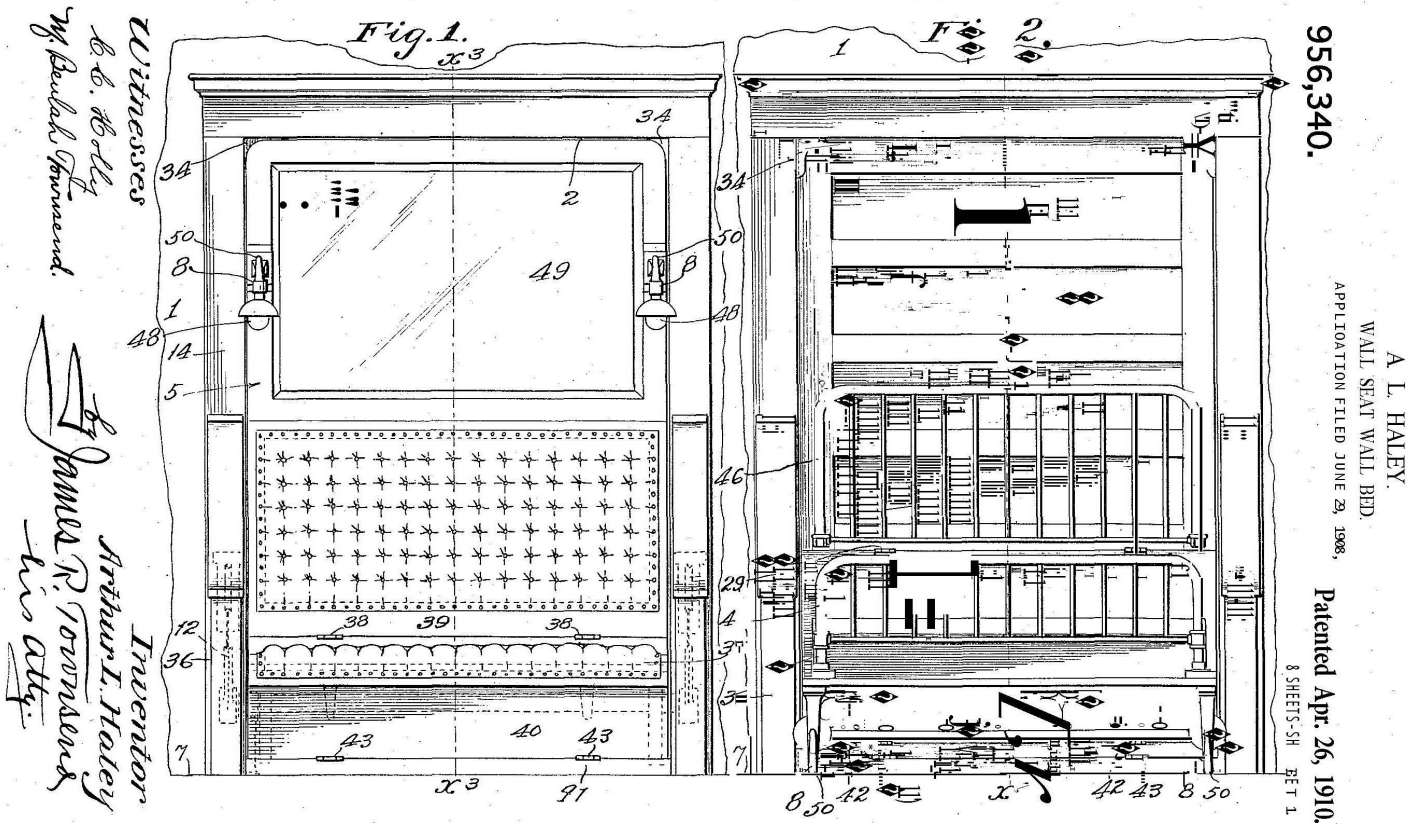
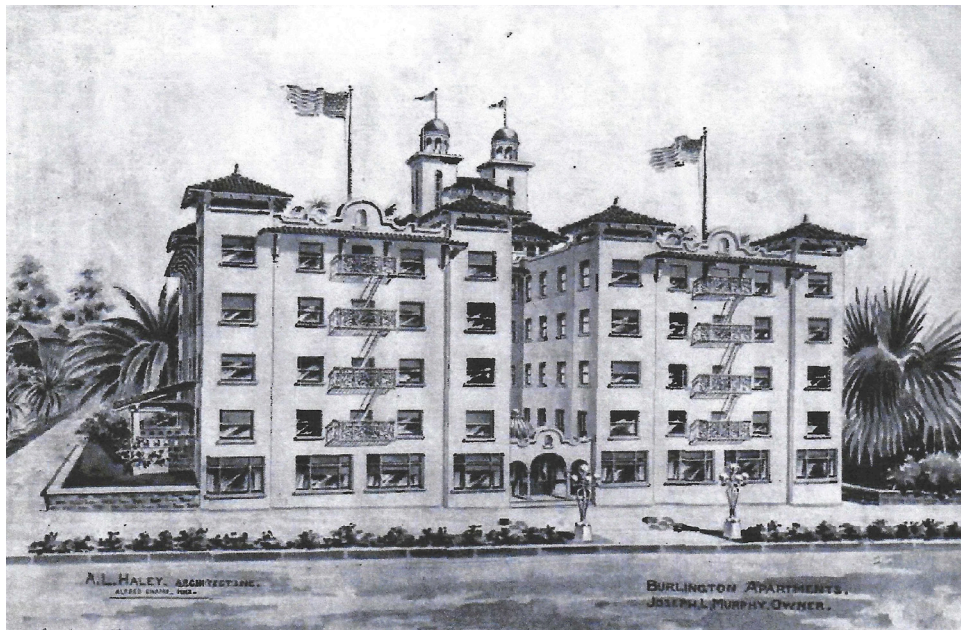


Diagram for the Wall Seat Wall Bed, from Arthur Haley's patent application, 1910.

Haley's crowning achievement during his career was surely the ten-story reinforced concrete Higgins Building, which still stands on the corner of Second and Main. Originally planned to be eight stories, the Los Angeles City Council extended the legal height of reinforced concrete buildings for this project, allowing for the extra two floors. At its completion in 1910, the Los Angeles Times called the Higgins building "the best example of monolithic concrete construction in the United States." At an enormous cost of \$675,000, the building was considered economical according to Haley because reinforced concrete "can be obtained from the local market, while the best structural steel can be manufactured at the present time only by the heaving rolling mills in the East." In addition, it was completed in just twelve months, faster than any other similarly-sized structure on the West Coast. The structure was also considered to be "absolutely fireproof," since the Higgins Building contained no wood, except for thin strips of wood in the edging around the carpets.

Arthur Haley's prolific architectural career in Los Angeles was fairly short-lived. In less than two decades, he left a significant mark on the downtown skyline. While the majority of his buildings are no longer standing due to redevelopment, those that still stand are a testament to his talent. As the United States entered World War I in 1917, Haley became Architect for the United States Shipping Board in Vancouver, Washington. After the war, very little can be found about Haley. He invented a process for sawing tapered logs to increase log production in the United States in 1921. Arthur Haley died in Los Angeles on October 16, 1925.

~Julie Yamashita, Lanterman House Archivist.



*Burlington Apartments, c. 1910 from **Modern Apartments** by A.L. Haley. Commissioned by J.L. Murphy, this five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Ninth Street and Burlington Avenue was completed in 1907 at a cost of \$65,000. The bottom floor had a cafe and grille as well as other conveniences for the tenants. The upper floors consisted of thirty-six apartments with folding wall furniture. The roof had a garden and sun parlor.*

Interested in learning more about Arthur Haley?
View the online exhibit at www.lantermanhouse.org/exhibitions

OR

Attend Julie Yamashita's free lecture on Sunday, April 16 at 2pm. (Details on page 11)

EXTANT BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY ARTHUR L. HALEY



(Picture on left)

Blue Earth County Courthouse, 204 South 5th Street, Mankato, MN
Designed by Arthur Haley and T. Dudley Allen, this was one of Haley's first major projects. The building, completed in 1889, combined a Second Empire roof with Italianate features. At an original cost of \$200,000, it is now on the National Register of Historic Places.



(Picture on right)

Powers House, 1345 Alvarado Terrace, Los Angeles, CA
The Powers House, built in 1903, was commissioned by Pomeroy W. Powers and his wife Ida. The Mission Revival-style home is stucco on frame construction. It still stands in Alvarado Terrace and is Los Angeles City Historical-Cultural Monument #86.



(Picture on left)

The Bisbee, 115 East 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA
Commissioned by Thomas Higgins, this business/hotel building was also known as the Saint George's Hotel, the Manhattan, the Girard House, and Higgins Hotel. Completed in 1905, it was constructed of brick with steel columns and girders, making it semi-fireproof. The six-story building, which still stands, is now called the St. George Hotel Apartments.



(Picture on right)

Higgins Mausoleum, New Calvary Cemetery, 4201 Whittier Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA
Built for Thomas Higgins (1844-1920), the mausoleum is large enough to fit twelve crypts. The structure, which still stands, features polished granite, bronze doors, and granite columns.

Most of Haley's buildings have been demolished due to redevelopment and many are still unidentified. For a list of all the Haley buildings attributed so far, please visit the online exhibition at lantermanhouse.org/exhibitions.

The Lanterman House Herb Garden

Since I last wrote about our project, the Lanterman garden beds are looking better and better. There is still plenty of work to be done, but thanks to expertise generously shared by Kathleen Orth and Diane Hong, we have been working for the past several years to fill the native plant beds with more and more hyper-local plants. The term hyper-local means that the plants are native to the Cañada-Crescenta Valley, the northern part of the Arroyo Seco, and the local hills and mountains. Although there is no specific documentary proof from the Lanterman archives, the plants do represent specimens that Roy Lanterman could have seen as a boy in the 1870s and 1880s. Thanks to the Theodore Payne Foundation's excellent inventory, we've been able to make progress toward that vision of the native plant beds.

Encouraged, I began eyeing the nearby herb bed about a year or so ago. Laura Verlaque, the Executive Director, agreed that the herb bed could use some TLC and said we were welcome to try our hands at it. At the time, the wooden bed contained a couple of derelict rosemary bushes, plus some mint, growing more along the outside than the inside, and finally a lot of Devil grass, spreading a scruffy looking mat in some very desiccated looking dirt.

Our idea was to try to create an herb garden that would contain herbs typically found in an herb garden of the 1920s, so we began to do some research on the appropriate herbs to plant and where to source them. Local nurseries have cut down on large selections of herbs, partly to accommodate changes in customer demand. They don't have the space to carry all the old species plus all the varieties of the newer favorites.

There seems to be no convenient nursery nearby that can do for us with herbs what Theodore Payne Foundation does for us with native plants. So we found some nurseries, from Oregon to Connecticut, which can mail us small herb plants we can't find locally. More recently, I came across a nursery in San Diego County, Pearson's Gardens in Vista, with a very helpful staff, which specializes in herbs.

It's been interesting in this past year to see which plants will successfully grow, what they look like, and how big they get. For example, Comfrey, a perennial related to Borage, is a fun plant in the summer with its huge leaves and showy pinkish-violet flowers. It gets a little bedraggled in the winter, but we've been clipping it back.

As I write in the midst of an unusually wet and cold winter, the winner for outstanding looks goes to the culinary sage at the east end of the bed. Kathleen grew it from a clipping and then donated it to our herb garden. Laura recently ordered some attractive signs which add interest, as well as needed information, to all the beds. We're looking forward to spring, when the herb bed might put on a nice show for us and prove worthy of Laura's new signs.

~Kathy Linowski, Lanterman House volunteer

Culinary Sage vs. White Sage



Culinary Sage



White Sage

Visiting the Lanterman House gardens, where the whiteness of the culinary sage in the herb garden and the White Sage in the native garden is prominent, you might ask what the differences are between the two? The two sages are very different in many ways.

For the cook, culinary sage can be used moderately to flavor teas, main dishes, and the traditional Thanksgiving dressing. White Sage has a very intense flavor and can be used only sparingly for cooking.

To the botanist, common culinary sage, *Salvia officinalis*, is a plant originating in Europe and the Mediterranean. White sage, *Salvia apiana*, is naturally occurring only in Southern California and the Baja peninsula. Botanically the two species are cousins.

For Native Americans, White Sage is a sacred plant, burned for smudging and as incense for special ceremonies.

~ Kathleen Orth, Lanterman House volunteer

Lanterman House Membership!

Since the inception of the Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation in 1993, memberships have helped the Foundation raise money to pay for the continued preservation and restoration of the Lanterman House & Archives. We have accomplished great things in the past thirty years and we are so grateful to all of our members for their support.



Membership dollars help support on-going preservation work to the Lanterman House, including the cataloguing and rehousing of the vintage clothing collection.

Benefactor

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Arlene Kushida
Helen & Robert Moses
Debra & Ed Pinson
Bruce Taylor
Joy & Joe Wilson

Spring 2023 - Calendar of Events



Emily Lanterman's lovely maple writing desk has been repaired and put on display in the breakfast room

Lanterman House Tour

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

When is the last time you visited the Lanterman House for a tour? We regularly update our tour with new information and artifacts. Bring a guest and check it out! Members are ALWAYS free.

Oral History Internship Program

Summer 2023

Our internship program is meeting in person this summer! Local high school students are encouraged to apply. Students will learn to research and record oral history interviews with members of the community. The interviews will become a permanent part of the Lanterman House archives. The internship is worth approximately 20 hours of community service, completed over a six-week period.

Please follow us on social media or check our website for more details later this spring. We will begin accepting applications in April.

LANTERMAN ORAL HISTORY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Member Appreciation Reception

Sunday, March 5

3pm to 4pm

We are delighted to celebrate and thank all of our members and volunteers for their generous support during the year. This year, we will be honoring our outgoing City Manager, Mark Alexander, for his dedication to and oversight of the Lanterman House for many years.

Please join us for a reception and short presentation. Light refreshments will be served. **RSVP to lantermanhouse@gmail.com.**



LANTERMAN RAGTIME DANCE

Sunday, March 19

12noon to 4pm

\$30 per person

Reservations required: <https://lantermanragtimedance.eventbrite.com>

Ragtime dancing returns to the Lanterman House! Music by the Bungalow Boys with guest vocalist Sheila Murphy-Nelson. There will be a dance class from noon to 1pm, and dancing from 1pm to 4pm.

You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the ground prior to the event. As always, you are encouraged to come in the attire of the early 20th century, or just something nice – men in coat and tie, women in a skirt and blouse. Please note the dance is held in the historic Lanterman House ballroom, which is only accessible via stairs.

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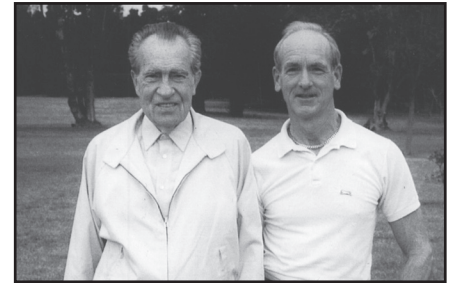
Spring 2023 - Calendar of Events

No reservations required for any of our free lectures or screening; however seating is limited to 50.

FREE SCREENING: Carl Howell--- Witnessing History, a film by John Newcombe

Sunday, April 2
2:30pm

John Newcombe's latest film documents the life and career of local resident Carl Howell, who served as a Naval Aide to four presidents: Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford. Howell can be compared to a real-life Forrest Gump. Time and again, serendipitous events gave him a front row seat to some of the most important events of the 1960s and 1970s. Enjoy this exclusive opportunity to view a privately-made film.



FREE LECTURE: Searching for Arthur L. Haley--- Forgotten Architect of Downtown Los Angeles

Sunday, April 19
2pm

Interested in learning more about Arthur L. Haley, architect of the Lanterman House? Very few of his buildings remain, but archivist Julie Yamashita has uncovered archival images and documentation about his life and prolific career. Join us for a free illustrated talk about this forgotten architect and his amazing career.

Julie Yamashita is the Archivist of the Lanterman House. She is also an Executive Committee member of L.A. as Subject as well as Chair-Elect of the Lone Arrangers Section of the Society of American Archivists.

FREE LECTURE: Crime, Passion & Hollywood in La Cañada Flintridge

Sunday, May 7
2pm

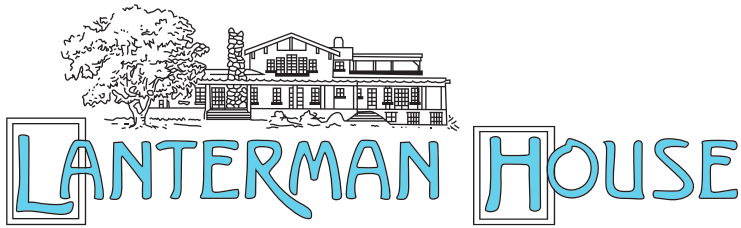
A town where crimes of desperate passion take place, where murderers use wealth and influence to get themselves acquitted, and a place that is home to a cavalcade of movie stars. Sounds like we're describing Hollywood, but actually we're talking about quiet old La Cañada Flintridge. Historian and author Mike Lawler will recount some truly astounding tales of crimes committed here, along with some of the Hollywood stars present and past that live here.



SUMMER PICNIC & UKULELE RENDEZVOUS

Sunday, May 28
1 to 4 pm
Free; no reservations necessary

Enjoy an afternoon of music, picnicking and games on the beautiful grounds of the Lanterman House. The house will be open for mini-tours. Bring a picnic to enjoy.



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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

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