



## SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER



**La Cañada Float, Pasadena Roses Tournament, January 1, 1915**

Our Fall/Winter 2010-11 Special Exhibition will chart the over 30 year history of La Cañada Flintridge's own Tournament of Roses. Don't miss it!

**A**t its May meeting, the Lanternman House Board of Directors agreed to try special lunch hour tours at the Lanternman House in December, January and February when there are fewer school tours. Visitors may bring lunch to eat on the grounds and enjoy a special "condensed" tour.

The Board agreed to an increase in admission fees from \$3.00 to \$5.00 for adults and from \$1.00 to \$3.00 for students and seniors. Children under 12 are free and members of the Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation tour for free.

The Board also adopted a proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 of \$36,550. This money will be used to pay for events and exhibitions, education, and restoration and conservation. Membership dues and generous contributions from members and from the public support these important functions every year.

# The Lanterman House Archives

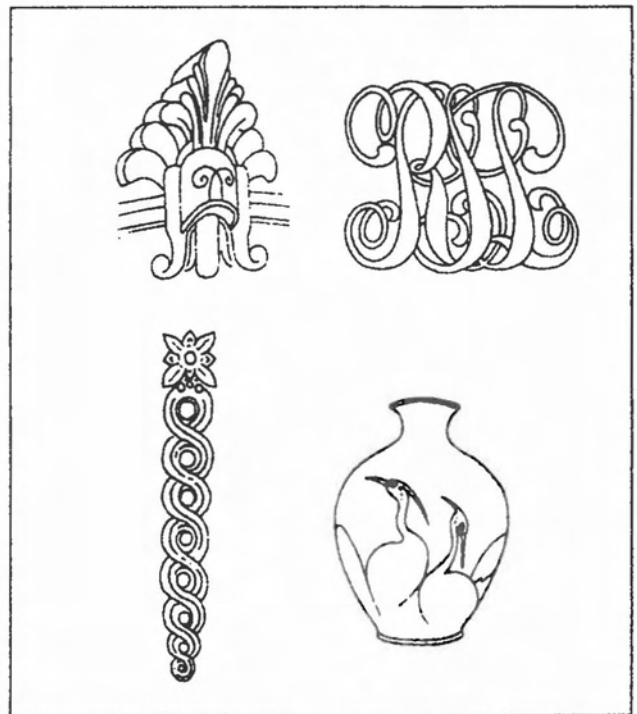
Fifteen years ago, the Lanterman House undertook the creation of an archives in which the historical documents and records amassed by the Roy Lanterman family were organized and preserved. This ongoing project has resulted in a series of records dedicated to each member of the Lanterman family (Roy, his wife Emily, and their sons Lloyd and Frank) as well as records pertaining to more distant relatives and to the history of the house and surrounding communities. Since the Lanterman family tended to never throw things away, the amount of material is tremendous, ranging from Roy's medical records to Emily's recipes and club activities to Lloyd's and Frank's schoolwork and adult interests in music and steam power. Most of the material thus far dates between 1885 and 1986.

Of special interest is Frank Lanterman's sheet-music collection which he developed during his career as a theater organist in the 1920s and 30s. Consisting of over 4,700 works, mostly popular songs and piano/organ transcriptions, the collection is in very good condition and offers historians a sweeping view of the development of American musical tastes in the early 20th century. Also worth noticing is the collection of song-lyric slides that were once projected on movie theater screens for audience sing-alongs.

The Lanterman House Archives is also the repository of documents and photographs from the La Cañada Flintridge Historical Society which ceased functioning in 1999. Merged with the small number of local history files that the Lanterman family had kept, this collection is steadily growing in size and significance. Recent additions to the local history collection are the archives of the La Cañada Unified School District and the papers of local historian and author June Dougherty. The local history

collection also benefits from the ongoing oral history program conducted by the Lanterman House. The DVDs and CDs that have resulted from these interviews offer the personal viewpoints of knowledgeable La Cañada Flintridge residents on the history of the community and its institutions. Among the individuals interviewed so far are former Superintendent of Schools Donald Ziehl, longtime residents Margaret Moses and Virginia Robertson, and Bob Covey, who had a forty-year association with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The Lanterman House Archives are maintained on a part-time basis by archivist Tim Gregory and are open most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and by appointment by calling the Lanterman House at 818-790-1421. Volunteer archivists are welcome!



*These items are several sought in the Lanterman House Scavenger Hunt organized for youngsters (and oldsters) at the Memorial Day Open House. Can you find them in the House?*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES...

*Dear Ms Bluemel:*

*One of our volunteers saw in the Star-News last week that Rebecca Liu, one of your students, won a 2009 History Day competition with an essay on Frank D. Lanterman. As the archivist and historical at the Lanterman House I would love to have a copy of it for our library. Please let me know if this is possible.*

*Thank you very much.*

*Tim Gregory, Archivist*

### **Here are excerpts from Rebecca's essay:**

Frank D. Lanterman was a name I had always known, but I really didn't know what it meant. I heard my parents say the name referring to something called "Regional Center". I came to understand that "Regional Center" funded programs that I needed desperately because I am Autistic. I learned the name of "my" Regional Center was Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center. It never occurred to me that the name was of a real person. For National History Day I decided to find out who Frank D. Lanterman really was.

...my mother, my aide and I went to Lanterman House and browsed through boxes of old newspaper articles, interview transcripts, wills, personal and professional letters, photos, chapters of books and copies of state laws. We selected about a dozen documents and had them photocopied to take home. It took me several weeks to go through the documents with my aide who reminds me to pay attention when I read and supports me when I take notes....

(I found out) Lanterman authored legislation changing laws that ended "warehousing" of mental patients and providing them with community based treatment. He proposed that developmentally disabled persons be provided services in their home communities, where they could remain close to family and friends. In 1969 Lanterman put the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act into law. The act gave people with developmental disabilities rights to state funded treatment/care services. In 1972 the act was expanded to include persons with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and other neurological disabilities. (In 1976) Lanterman authored legislation to implement California's master plan for special education. Before that, children with disabilities could be denied access to public education.

If Frank Lanterman had never lived my life would be very different today. I would not have been screened for Autism at Regional Center at the age of two. Without that screening I would not have received the funding for early intervention services, which were so vital to my development. Without the funding my parents would not have been able to pay for the treatments that changed my life. My behaviors would have led to me being placed in a state institution away from my family....

Lanterman's contribution to history was to single handedly stand up for those who were helpless (and) ensured that people with mental illness and developmental disabilities would share in civil rights like other Americans. ...Thank you Frank Lanterman for changing my life for the better.

*Rebecca Liu*

## ENJOY THE LANTERMAN HOUSE IN 2010-2011!

### Be sure to save these dates:

- October 3, 2010 Foothill Artists' League Annual Exhibition
- October 24, 2010 Craftsman Weekend Tour from Pasadena Heritage
- November 6, 2010 Heritage Home Tour: "Sticks and Stones"
- November 16, 2010 to February 28, 2011 "La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses", an exhibition at the Lanterman House
- January, 2011 Lanterman Lecture: Our Own Tournament of Roses
- February 13, 2011 "Love is in the Air": a musical event
- February 25, 2011 Tournament of Roses Happy Hour
- March 6 or 20, 2011 Ragtime Tea Dance
- May 29, 2011 Community Open House