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**Historical Society of Temple City**  
Established 1987  
**Reflections Newsletter**

January 2024

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Website | [HistoricalSocietyofTC.com](http://HistoricalSocietyofTC.com)

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TempleCityPhotos.com



## **Historical Society President, Robert Westgate**

The Historical Society of Temple City lost our President on December 21, 2023. Bob was not only our President, but a true man of Temple City. His enthusiasm for the City of Temple City, the community of Temple City, and its history was unmatched. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Jessica and all of the Westgate, Goold and Williams family members, as well as the many members of our Temple City Community who have been effected by his loss. As we navigate this time of transition, we hope you will join us at our General Membership Meeting on Sunday, January 14th.

A Celebration of Life was held on December 30th at the First United Methodist Church of Temple City. The service was a wonderful Celebration honoring Bob, and is available at [TempleCityPhotos.com](http://TempleCityPhotos.com) and through the Church's YouTube Page.

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**Historical Society of Temple City**  
**501(c)(3) Non-Profit ID# 95-4111584**

# Robert Allen Goold Westgate's Celebration of Life

## In Remembrance

Robert Allen Goold Westgate passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on December 21, 2023 at the age of 50. He was born on March 22, 1973 in Temple City, California. Bob was a surprise addition to the Westgate family, the youngest of three with a 15 & 12 year gap between his older sisters Julie and Linda. Bob was always well liked by his peers but was sometimes seen as "overly energetic" by his teachers. The passing of Bob's father Paul when he was 13 changed the world for him. Bob's brother-in-law Rick stepped in as a role model and father figure for Bob. Rick supported him in scouting as he moved through the ranks of Troop 161 which met at the First United Methodist Church. Bob went on to become an Eagle Scout and later became the Scoutmaster of the troop when his son Steven was a Scout.

Bob attended PCC and UCLA where he earned his BS in Biochemistry. He went on to earn his teaching credential and MS in Administration and was a Doctoral Candidate at Claremont University. Bob eventually became a teacher and administrator in TCUSD. His stories were captivating, humorous, and heartfelt. Bob had a way of reaching the heart of those students who struggled most. Bob has touched countless lives in TCUSD as a Science Teacher at Oak, Assistant Principal at Cloverly and Longden, and Principal at Emperor Elementary and the DDSLC, Adult Education, Adult Transition Program, Virtual Academy and Independent Study. Bob dedicated his life to Temple City and it is no wonder that many referred to him as "Mr. TC." He has left an indelible mark on the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Bob and Jessica Goold knew each other in school and eventually the winding path of life brought them to each other's side. On August 1, 2010 Bob and Jessica were married in the gazebo at Temple City Park. Bob and Jessica took each other's last names as middle names when they blended their lives and families together. Steven asked Bob if he would officially adopt him which meant so much to Bob. Staci has adopted the family as Jessica's and Bob's self-proclaimed Goddaughter.

As teachers at Oak Avenue Intermediate, Jessica and Bob had the student orchestra play at their wedding and and they are here playing again at Bob's service as we send him off to the next chapter of whatever lies beyond.



# It is Time to Renew Your Historical Society Membership

## Join / Renew Your Historical Society Membership !



### Reasons to become a Member .....

- Help preserve the Woman's Club Hall as a resource for our community.
- Help organize and preserve our Temple City History through the Community's Museum.
- Your membership plays a vital role in maintaining these gems for the entire Temple City community.

### Join - Donate - Volunteer

For More Information email  
HistoricalSocietyOfTC@gmail.com or visit our website

[HistoricalSocietyOfTC.com](http://HistoricalSocietyOfTC.com)

### DONATE



Zelle®

Historical Society  
of Temple City

## DO YOU KNOW TEMPLE CITY ?



The Scavenger Hunt Competition has ended, but the "Hunt" is a fun way to learn some of our local landmarks.

ENJOY



## Historical Society of Temple City



Happy  
New Year!

## MUSEUM OPEN SUNDAY January 14, 2024

11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM  
5954 Kauffman Ave., Temple City

[HistoricalSocietyOfTC.com](http://HistoricalSocietyOfTC.com)

## A Day to Remember in the Town of Temple

*by Donna Georgino*

Despite being a small town, Temple City has experienced many historical events throughout the past century. One such event took place in 1926 when the American Legion commemorated the Armistice (now Veteran's Day) in Temple Community Park (now called Temple City Park). The featured speaker was Mabel Walker Willebrandt, daughter of Temple City residents Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Walker. The Walkers were retired and lived on a three-acre ranch located on Encinita Ave. where they raised chickens and turkeys.



Having Mabel Walker Willebrandt as a speaker in the newly formed Town of Temple was quite a treat for the community because she was known throughout the country as the "First Lady of Law" and served as a U.S. Assistant Attorney General. from 1921 to 1929 under Presidents Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge. Prior to becoming an Assistant Attorney General Mabel Willebrandt was the City of Los Angeles' first female public defender, handling mostly cases of prostitution. During World War I she served as the head of the Legal Advisory Board for conscription cases in Los Angeles. At age 32, her law school professor and mentor Frank Doherty, as well as Senator Hiram Johnson and all the judges in Southern California, recommended her for the post of Assistant Attorney General. During her 8 years in the Attorney General office, Willebrandt headed the division in the U.S. justice department dealing with federal taxation, federal prisons, and matters relating to the enforcement of the Volstead Act (prohibition).



Mabel Willebrandt's legacy lived on long after her death in 1963. In 2010, the HBO series Boardwalk Empire featured Assistant U.S. Attorney Ester Randolph, a character based on Willebrandt. She was also featured prominently in the 2011 PBS miniseries Prohibition, by Ken Burns and Lynn Novic. In Temple City, she will be remembered as the trailblazing daughter of Temple City residents who made the 1926 commemoration of the Armistice, a day to remember.

### "Like" us on FACEBOOK

Do you Enjoy Photos of Temple City's past? Make sure to "Like" our page on Facebook where Donna Georgino is posting daily photos from the Historical Society archives. The excitement and comments we are receiving are amazing!



**Historical Society of  
Temple City  
Woman's Club Hall**

