



NEWS

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History Partnership: The Samitaur Tower



Photo by George Bernardin

In April, the Culver City Historical Society partnered with Samitaur Constructs on a public arts project involving the use of some of the Society's historic images while working with student artists, and using the Samitaur Tower as a viewing screen, which is located at the corner of Hayden Ave. and National Blvd., near the Culver City EXPO stop.

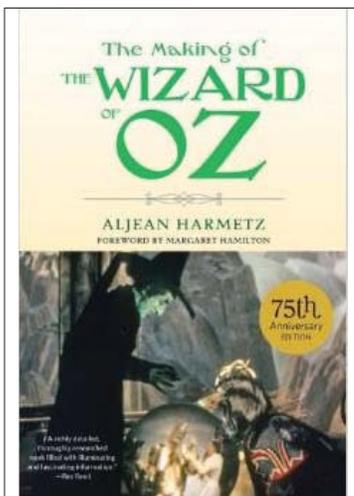
Student artists from the Savannah College of Art and Design and the University of New Mexico were given this "canvas" of 10 screens on the Samitaur Tower and asked to explore the question of how does an image make an impact in a short amount of time in a non-traditional view (ie. from a car, train, etc.). This was an experiment on how to display content to the public, with most of the work being done remotely, not on site.

The Tower is like no other display system in the world—an amazing opportunity for these students. The students were told to interpret the images, but using no manipulation. Our historical images were a part of the 20-minute segment that was created.

Samitaur ran the show on the Tower for the Historical Society on July 31, from sunset until 9:30 pm. The show ran about 20 minutes, and they looped it, so it was viewed about six times.

Kurt Kratchman, Samitaur's representative who moderated the project, joined the group gathered at the Tower to answer questions.

"The Making of the Wizard of Oz": An Evening with Aljean Harmetz



The Culver City Historical Society's Fall General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30 pm in the Teen Center (south of the Veterans Memorial Bldg.) at 4153 Overland Ave, Culver City. (Please note the new time and location.) Park in the Vets parking lot and enter from the rear of the building.

Aljean Harmetz, author of the *Making of the Wizard of Oz*, will discuss her book and reveal facts about the classic movie, made in Culver City, which is marking its 75th anniversary this year. Included in the evening will be songs from the film, a slide show narrated by Harmetz, a documentary with interviews and stories from many of the original cast, and a Q&A session.

Harmetz is the author of books about the making of classic films (*The Making of Gone with the Wind*; *The Making of Casa Blanca* and many others) as well as a novel. She spent 12 years as the Hollywood and West Coast cultural reporter at the New York Times.

A signed copy of Harmetz's 75th anniversary edition of her book will be given by a drawing, and all attendees will have a chance to win. After the program, a book signing will take place in the Culver City Historical Society's Archives and Resource Center (ARC), just steps away, where her book will be for sale for \$19 while supplies last, by cash or check only. Harmetz also will sign books for those who bring them that night. The ARC will have displays showing movie history in "The Heart of Screenland."

The public is invited to enjoy the free program and students are encouraged to attend.

OUR MISSION

The Culver City Historical Society was created for the purpose of collecting, preserving and exhibiting the history, cultural and civic accomplishments of Culver City and its environs.

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Judy Stangler

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STAY CONNECTED

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Remembering Roll and Rye

The Society sends its best wishes to long-time member Rita Zide, owner of the Culver City institution, Roll 'N Rye, the restaurant-delicatessen that has been serving the community for over 51 years at its location on Jefferson Blvd. She and the eatery both retired on September 14. Rita has certainly eared the time to "relax and enjoy" herself. She and the local meeting place will be missed!



Your President's Message

by Michelle Bernardin

Dear Members,

Happy Fall! As the leaves start to turn colors (or the equivalent in Culver City), your Historical Society has been making a few tweaks and changes of its own.

I encourage you to come visit the Archives during our open public hours, the first and third Sundays of the month from 1-3pm. As you enter, you will see our winged panel unit. This display has been a labor of love for several months, and is a beautifully organized (and colorful!) resource of historic maps and photos. (Give particular attention to the wing on the railroads!) While you are at your computer, I hope you will take a minute to check out the new design of our website (www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org). In the redesign, we have tried to make the navigation easier to find, and we look forward to the expansion possibilities, because history is endless!

We are building out our Historic Sites page, adding the text from each marker (which are history lessons, in and of themselves), as well as a Google map, so you can locate each site.

If you have been to the ARC recently, you may have seen the Culver City history timeline that Julie Lugo Cerra, as City Historian, has created (and is a work in progress, as historic details are added or revised). We have put this timeline on our website for the benefit of our members, history buffs, and students alike. Enjoy stepping back into our way, WAY past!

A new feature that we have added is the ability to sign up or renew your membership online. For our business members, we have added links to their sites, if known. With just a click, you can see which businesses support the Historical Society, and go directly to their site to make a connection.

Lastly, maybe the most obvious new tweak is the updated look of this newsletter! This is in a continued effort to make our newsletter legible (and enjoyable) to read.

These are just a few highlights of your Historical Society's website, and I welcome your comments and feedback!

I look forward to seeing you at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, October 15. And, as always, thank you for supporting your Culver City Historical Society!

'Tis the Season (already!)

It's not too early to think about your holiday gift giving!

Consider the Historical Society as your one-stop shopping destination. From

Aunt Nancy, who needs that morning cup of coffee; to Cousin Fred, the movie buff; to Brother Matt, who is buying his first condo and needs some comfy and/or literary accessories – we've got you covered!

And we're online, too! Visit the gift shop at the Archives or e-shop at www.CCHSstore.com.

Be sure to check out our new tote bag!



In Memoriam

The Society extends its sympathies to the family and friends of members and friends of our supporters:

Maurice Hattem
Dale Jones
Ed Little
Sol Sigall

Welcome to Our New Members

Richard and Denise Gullixson
Maureen (Mo) de Koff
Oliver de la Torre
Drayton Marsh
Susan Winton
Janet Hoult
Sam Landau
Fran Bustos



An ARC Update by Julie Lugo Cerra

75th Anniversary of Two Movie Classics - In the Archives we try to assemble relevant and timely exhibits. Our focus for the last quarter shows off some of our movie history since it marks the 75th anniversary of the release of two classics made in Culver City, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone With the Wind*.

The Wizard of Oz was filmed at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (now Sony Pictures Studios). We have hosted many of the "munchkins" who returned to Culver City. In fact, our 1989 sold-out "Celebration of the Movies" featured an interview with Jerry Maren, now the last remaining "Munchkin." Jerry, a local favorite, took great pride in singing "The lollipop song" at that event, which we have to share. The "munchkins" always enjoyed their return visits to the studios, and the Culver Hotel, where many of them stayed during filming.

Photo by Julie Lugo Cerra



The Last "Munchkin" Jerry Maren

Gone With The Wind was filmed at Selznick Studios (now The Culver Studios). Tara was built on the "40 Acres" studio backlot, where the "burning of Atlanta" was filmed, as well.

Special Thanks - To Sharon Shore and Denice Renteria, who again worked to recapture local history in a display of Fiesta queen and princess costumes from the early 1950s. It was a great centerpiece for our special Fiesta exhibit of buttons, photos, banners, and other memorabilia.

We are lucky to have many generous contributors! Our newest

addition is a beautifully framed 1920s map of Culver City. The double glass allows for the "Map of Progress" to be seen from the front and back. The front features streets, with an inset of The Culver Hotel, while the back of the map offers information under headings like "Boulevards, Health Conditions, Climatic Conditions, Motion Pictures,"



"Map of Progress"

etc. It is a window into Culver City in the early years. Special thanks to member Jim Clarke for this donation, a great showpiece for upcoming Centennial celebration, too!

On Other Fronts - In addition to significant foot traffic, we also hosted a bus tour from Claremont. It was fun to hop on their bus after their Sony Tour, and lead them around our city with the Archives as their last stop!

Saving local history is a collective effort! We are lucky to access local "early settler" descendants, members of Harry H. Culver's family, and locals who have lived and documented Culver City's story.

More thanks to our volunteers, many of whom helped at the ARC during the Fiesta: Michelle Bernardin, Tami Eskridge, Jeanne Conklin, Adrienne Bernardin, George Jones, Sharon Shore, Jerry Dealy, Carol Schwab, Denice Renteria, Hope Parrish, Joy Jacobs, Stu Freeman, Steve Rose, Jerry Sallus, and Alex King.

Please stop by to see the latest exhibits!

BECOME A MEMBER

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and support the Society's Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

We can't do it without YOU!

Already a member? Please remember that membership renewals are due in January.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Benefactor (\$1000)
- Individual Member \$20
- Corporate Sponsor \$500
- Family Member \$30
- Patron Member \$100
- Individual Lifetime Member \$300
- Organization \$15
- Family Lifetime Member \$500
- Business Member \$50
- Youth Member \$10
- GIFT MEMBERSHIP Available

Gift given by: _____

Name/Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

New or Renewal _____

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Contributions of both historic & social significance as well as monetary donations are encouraged, and the Society IRS tax exempt status may make such contributions tax deductible.

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 15: General Meeting and Program
Teen Center, 7:30 PM

Oct. 25: LA as Subject
USC Doheny Memorial Library, 9-5 PM

Jan. 21: General Meeting & Program
7 PM

ARC Open Dates

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM

October 5

October 19

November 2

November 16

December 7

December 21

January 4

January 18



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Photo by Kevin Lachoff



Photo by Kevin Lachoff

Society's annual "Picnic in the Park" on July 27.

Guest speakers at the July 16 General Meeting, discussing "The Creation of Culver City High and its First Graduating Class '53."