



# Culver City Historical Society Newsletter



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Fall 2023

## “Just Let Me Hear Some of That Rock & Roll Music” - Simulcast from Culver City

By Maureen (Miller) Fleming

Who else used to head to Ince Blvd to go to Don Kirshner's Rock Concert tapings?

Some lucky locals realized that the Concerts they were watching on television, were being performed “live” right down the street!

Don Kirshner's Rock Concert was a new direction for music on television as compared to rehearsed, often lip-synced performances that were the staple of earlier shows like Shindig! or American Bandstand. Kirshner's show was recorded “live” in stereo utilizing simulcast to broadcast on FM Stereo radio stations. The shows were recorded live at The Culver City Studios from 1977 to 1981.

I spoke with four fans of the show about their experiences.

Local resident Colleen McGrane recounts “The program featured many of the popular performers of the day during its run. We'd walk over, get in line, and do our homework while waiting.

Some of the acts my friends and I saw were Chuck Berry, Cheap Trick, The Ramones (as pictured), The Bay City Rollers, The Village People, Chuck Mangioni, The Spinners, Tony Orlando and Dawn and KC and the Sunshine Band.

We also got to see Comedians: Jay Leno, Gallagher, David Letterman, Sandra Bernhard, Elayne Boosler, Jimmy Walker, Gary Shandling, and Arsenio Hall.”

Joel Butch Sube remembers “I lived on Poinsettia Court, a small one-way street, with Jerry's corner market just 3 houses away. I was sitting on my porch and these cool guys, rock and roll types walked past on their way to the market. I said “What's up? You guys playing tonight?” They stopped and asked me if I was going. I said, “I'll see you there!” I had no clue they were The

Ramones until I saw them on stage that night.

Gail Keithley describes “Our house backed up to the Studio and there was a covered walkway with a chain link fence. A Security Guard said I could come in and see Tony Orlando and Dawn. I climbed a ladder to get on the roof of our pigeon coop, jumped across to the roof over the walkway and down the ladder attached to the wall of the Studio. He was quite impressed! Little did he know I'd done it a dozen times. The entrance was on Carson Street and Ince.”

Mario Luna explains “I got my tickets at Records West and saw The Little River Band and Pablo Cruise”.

“Rock Concert” provided a television venue where bands could be seen and often introduced viewers to bands which were never heard on top 40 radio. The last show aired in 1981, the year that MTV was launched.



## Upcoming Program

### General Membership Meeting and Program: FRANK SEBASTIAN AND THE COTTON CLUB

Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, Tuesday, **October 24<sup>th</sup>** at 7PM



Frank Sebastian welcoming Louis Armstrong to the Cotton Club May 1930

If you enjoyed the April Program on the Bars, Dives and Bistros of Culver City, you need to attend our October program. We will explore early Culver City beginning in 1926 when Frank Sebastian opened The Cotton Club. We will touch upon the many other famed establishments he created in Culver City, Sacramento and Reno, NV over the next 53 years. A true showman in all respects, he earned the well-deserved title “THE KING OF THE CABARETS”. His story has all the elements of a great Martin Scorsese Film, including a cast of very interesting characters. Sebastian created some of the finest entertainment venues during the years of Prohibition through the 1960's that have rarely been equaled in scale or popularity. It was said that he was the Florence Ziegfield of the West Coast. Dennis Parrish, VP of Programs, has been working on this program for some time and promises lots of surprises. He looks forward to sharing new information on the Man and his Night Clubs, as well as and other fun stuff. This is a not miss look into Culver City's not so quiet past. Please be our guest at this free program and have a chance at winning a free book from this fabulous era.

## President's Message



Hello Members, Friends and Colleagues!

What a wonderfully busy summer it has been for the Society and our team! We had our first invitation to present a program at the Senior Center, thanks to Mike Odunze. We also provided walking tours of downtown Culver City as well as 3 wonderful Programs. Additionally, we hosted local and out of town guests at the museum including two delegations from our Sister City, Iksan City, South Korea, and Culver High reunions – Classes of '58, '63, and '73!

Our YouTube channel has grown to over 1000 subscribers and we return to a 6-page newsletter!! There are many events planned for this fall referenced in this newsletter and calendar.

**ALERT!** For reasons beyond of our control, our quarterly Program/General membership meeting dates have now changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Therefore, the date for our upcoming quarterly program, about Frank Sebastian's Cotton Club will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> **Tuesday, October 24th** at 7:00pm. Please make note of this change going forward.

Denice and Jack are bringing back our Lecture Series on our open Sundays. First in this series is October 15<sup>th</sup> in the Museum and Multipurpose room at 2:00. Doors will open at 1:00.

School is back in session, and we have resumed our Student Internship Program. We are delighted to have Eve Mott, Maren Brown, Sophia Vegas and Ariana Khan back in the museum with us!

I am looking forward to seeing the exhibits they come up with this year! I am pleased to say that through your generous donations and contributions our collection continues to grow. If you have Culver City related items that you aren't sure what to do with, please think of us for your donations.

If it has been a little while, and you are in the neighborhood, stop by and visit us! We'll leave the light on...

Hope M. Parrish



Thank you to our VP of Programs, Dennis J. Parrish and Richard Adkins, Former Curator of the Hollywood Heritage Museum, for bringing us a wonderful program about the legendary Costume Designer ADRIAN!! And further thank you to Adkins for the Historical Photo donated to us for the program.

### 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.

### OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hope M. Parrish ..... President  
Michelle Bernardin ..... Immediate Past President  
Dennis Parrish ..... VP Programs  
Maureen Fleming ..... VP Museum Chair  
Denice Renteria ..... Co-VP Development  
Jack Bommarito ..... Co-VP Development  
Mara Bommarito ..... Secretary  
Carolyn Wispe Burns ..... Co-Treasurer  
Beverly Peterson ..... Co-Treasurer  
Michael Laase ..... Parliamentarian  
Jeanne Conklin ..... Membership Chair  
Tami Eskridge ..... Membership Committee  
Valerie Meyer ..... Costumes Chair  
Mark Morris ..... Media Archives  
Ron Peterson ..... In House Photographer  
Anissa Di Vincente ..... Webmaster  
Michael Chiabauda ..... Photo Archives

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND DESIGNER

Sofia Stark

### INTERNS

Maren Brown, Eve Mott,  
Ariana Khan, Sophia Vegas

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Marc Brodnax  
Melanie Brodnax  
Katherine Bulovic  
Cynthia and Melba Machado  
Johanne (Zacha) Ferdinand  
Shelly Papadopolous  
Mary Lou Shatan  
Jeannine Stehlin  
Larry Underhill  
Marta Valdez  
Meg Sullivan

### THANK YOU!

### OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

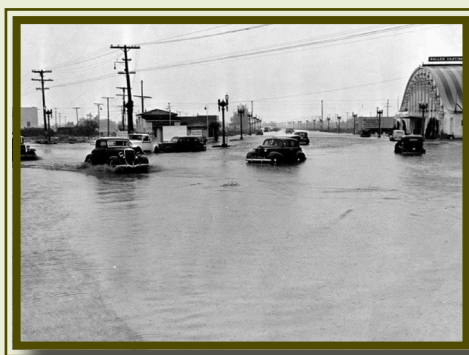
If you are a Ralphs shopper and have an online account you can designate the Culver City Historical Society as your "Community Contribution." Every dollar counts! This is a great way to help your Society without any extra cost to you.

[www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program](http://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program)

## Historical Highlights



E.A. "Buster" Clark, operating dough mixer at Helms Bakery.  
Photo donated by Frank Clark



The Great Flood of 1938 effects Culver City  
Photo by Charlie Metcalf

Send us your photos!

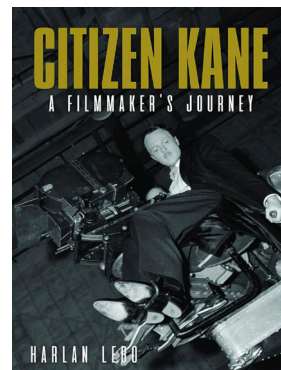


### IKSAN STUDENTS' HISTORY LESSON

On August 3, 2023, the Culver City Historical Society was delighted to host high school students from Culver City's sister city of Iksan, South Korea for a day of learning about history. They were accompanied by their "brothers and sisters" from the host families. During the morning session at the ARC, Jack Bommarito, VP of Development, led students in a lesson that touched on both the history of the United States and the History of California leading up to the creation of Culver City.

Later in the day, students continued their learning by participating in a walking tour of downtown Culver City. The tour began at City Hall, then continued east on Culver Blvd to the Culver X, the Moment in Time statue of Harry Culver, the Culver Hotel and the Culver Studios. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day and had many interesting questions and observations!

**LECTURE SERIES:** Sunday,  
October 15th, 2:00PM–4:00PM  
at the Culver City Historical  
Society & Multipurpose Room



**Harlan Lebo**, author of *Citizen Kane: A Filmmaker's Journey*, will present his program, **"Everything you didn't know about Citizen Kane"**. *Citizen Kane* is one of the most explored and analyzed films ever made, but it's a motion picture that is still filled with mysteries and unanswered questions. Harlan's book will be available for purchase on the day of the free event with a book signing after the program. You can also purchase the book in advance at the **Village Well**. Bring a friend and join us — Doors open at 1:00PM.

**Volunteers Needed:** If you are a resident with spare time on your hands, we could use your help identifying people in photos that we have in the Museum's collection. We would love your help! Please contact me directly at [hope@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:hope@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org).

Woody's SmorgasBURGER  
Do you remember?

## KATY KRATZ - CULVER CITY ARTIST LAUREATE



This collaborative project, will be a large scale hanging sculpture consisting of hundreds of ceramic pinch pots and beads, which will reflect the myriad perspectives and experiences present in our Culver City. The Culver City Artist Laureate Program is a collaboration between the City of Culver City, Cultural Affairs, and Culver City Arts Foundation. We look forward to seeing this community project in person!

## Spotlight



Pacific Military belonged to Gordon R. Howard and donated by his daughter to us. This is amazing, Harry H. Culver started this Academy and we have a few items but not a hat, belt pin, 4 year books, diploma signed by HH Culver, and the Class newsletter. Thank you Howard family!



A visit from the Culver High Class of 1958



Sasha Palevsky (000 Magazine), Hope M. Parrish, Justin Jampol (Founder Wende Museum)



Culver High Alumni: Donnie Norden (78), Maureen (Miller) Fleming (78), John Henry (79), Bobbi (Henry) Barbera (84), Adi Sulejmanagic (83)



## Did someone say THUMBS UP???

We hosted a walking tour of our downtown area and the Culver Hotel with Jeong Heon-yul, Mayor of Iksan City and his delegation Choi Jong-oh, Kim Wan-soo, Han In-kyung, Ko Kwang-jun, Choi Kangman, Cho Donghwan, during their visit in June. We want to thank our Culver City Sister City for this invitation! It was a truly fun collaboration that we hope continues in our future.

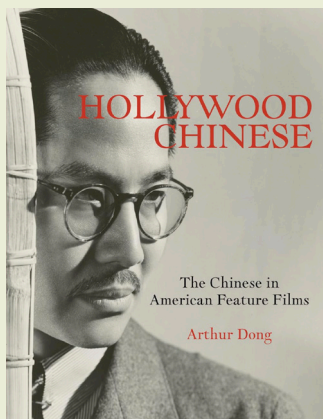


Elaine Gerety-Warner, Elizabeth Garcia, Jack Bommarito

## CULVER CITY & THE OLYMPICS

Culver City is again ahead of the game! July 22<sup>nd</sup>, staff, community and council members had its first community roundtable, preparing for our city's participation in the 2028 Olympics. Jack presented a short talk about our past involvement in the 1932 & 1984. Valerie and the museum team, displayed many items from the Olympic Archives, including our 1984 Olympics volunteer outfit and swag. Donated by Pat Clapp.

## Culver's Corner



www.villagewell.com

"Hollywood Chinese" – We want to thank Jennifer Caspar proprietor of the "Village Well-Books and Coffee" for her book signing events. We are meeting so many great authors and can recommend some wonderful books for you!

Here is one from Author Dong that we think you will enjoy! "Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films" presents an intimate look at the Chinese American role and influence in Hollywood, from some of the earliest films set in America's Chinatowns to the contemporary artists remaking the face of Hollywood.

## STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org  
facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety  
twitter @histofculvrcity  
instagram @culvercityhistoricalsociety



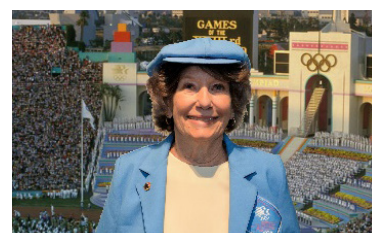
## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Answer on page 3.



## FIESTA DISPLAY FOR 2023

As most of our Fiesta Costumes are over 70 years old, they are getting more delicate and fragile, that we can no longer display them during Fiesta. So we are reaching out to our members and our community. If anyone should have Fiesta Men's or Woman's or even Childrens clothing articles that need to find a home, please contact us. We would love to be the caretakers of these for you.



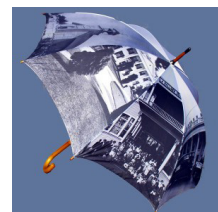
## IN MEMORIAM

Jozelle Lawless Smith  
June 20, 1939 – August 18, 2023



Holidays are on their way! Consider shopping in our online store for you and your loved ones, as well as gifting a membership!

<https://www.culvercityhistoricalsociety.org/shop/>



## MEMBERSHIP GIFT CERTIFICATE

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_





P.O. Box 1356 Culver City, CA 90232 • [info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org) • (310) 253-6941

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### ARC OPEN DATES: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 1–3PM

Oct. 1 and 15, Nov. 5 and 19, Dec. 3 and 17

### October 24<sup>th</sup>: General Meeting and Program

Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

### October 14<sup>th</sup>: Culver City Arts Walk and Roll

Helms District, 11AM - 6PM

### October 28<sup>th</sup>: "LA as Subject"

Doheny Memorial Library, 10AM

### October 15<sup>th</sup>: Sunday Series - Citizen Kane

Multipurpose Room, VMB, 2PM - 4PM

## Supporting Sponsors, Donors and Business Members

These fine Culver City area businesses support our work to preserve Culver City history for future generations.  
Show your support by your patronage of their services and products.

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The Culver Studios ..... Ryan Smith (310) 473-8900  
Denice Renteria ..... Denice Renteria  
Meghan Sahli-Wells and Karim Sahli ..... The Sahli Family

### Corporate and Non Profit Sponsors

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The Wende Museum ..... Justin Jampol (310) 216-1600

## Renew or Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and support the Culver City Historical Society Archives and Resource Center (ARC). We can't preserve local history without you!

☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal

☐ Benefactor (\$1,000 +)

☐ Corporate Sponsor (\$500)

☐ Family Lifetime Member (\$500)

☐ Individual Lifetime Member (\$300)

☐ Patron Member (\$100)

☐ Business Member (\$50)

☐ Family Member (\$35)

☐ Individual Member (\$25)

☐ Non Profit Organization (\$15)

☐ Youth Member (\$10)

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Voluntary Contribution to Museum Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Contribution to Julie Lugo Cerra Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Or join online at [CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership](http://CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership)