



# NEWS

Volume 37, No. 2. Spring 2016

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## Teach, Love, Dig



Dr. Charles Rozaire on Sept. 20, 2007, during the 90th anniversary of the city's incorporation, which we celebrated with a party for the city at the Culver Hotel.

As a friend of the Historical Society, you have repeatedly heard our important message about the need for support, primarily through membership and volunteerism. Here, we highlight another way to donate – the transformative gift. At the end of 2015, the Society was given a sizable and generous gift by noted anthropologist, archaeologist, and Historical Society member Dr. Charles Rozaire. Given in memory of his parents Arthur C. and Esther C. (Caldwell) Rozaire, this is one of the largest one-time gifts by an individual in the Society's 35-year history.

Dr. Rozaire grew up in Culver City, attended Culver City Grammar School, and received his BA, MA, and Ph.D. at UCLA. During his career, Dr. Rozaire served as Curator for the Southwest Museum, and Curator of Archeology for the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, taught courses at UCLA, and participated in fieldwork for museums and universities across America. The author of several volumes focusing on archaeological investigations of early island settlements off the coast of California, his life's work will continue to teach and feed the research of students and archaeologists for years to come.

In 2012, the Historical Society hosted Dr. Rozaire and fellow Society member Virgie Eskridge in a conversation about their early recollections of growing up as friends and schoolmates in Culver City. He also personally assisted the Society with our general research on Native Americans, some of which also was used in our displays. Currently writing his memoir, he has built a legacy that reflects his passion for archaeology, his family and roots in Culver City, and his philanthropic and pioneering spirit.

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### **April 20 General Meeting and Program Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7pm Renovation of Robert Lee Frost Auditorium Presented by Hodgetts + Fung Design and Architecture**



May is National Historic Preservation Month, making this a perfect time to highlight the current renovation of Robert Lee Frost Auditorium at Culver City High School. This unique structure, comprised of a 210-foot span folded plate concrete roof, and built in 1963 by Flewelling and Moody, has been in continuous use since it was first commissioned, and survived the 6.7 Northridge Earthquake in 1994 with no damage whatsoever to the 4-inch thick shell. It has been the mission of Hodgetts + Fung to preserve and celebrate the existing structure. Each element of the design was subject to careful consideration, including challenges brought on by the unique structural constraints of the thin-shell structure, ineffective and unhealthy air handling system, lack of vertical space for a "black box" theater, and seriously degraded surfaces and systems throughout the venue.

With a new larger stage, enhanced performance qualities, and back-of-house facilities, Frost Auditorium will be a fully functioning theater within an extraordinary concrete shell, and continue to be an icon for Culver City.

The firm's two principals, partners Craig Hodgetts and Hsinming Fung, will give a presentation on this renovation. Their approach to this work is multifaceted - embracing visitor experience, technology, and iconic presence in a disciplined process resulting in a bold, uncompromising architecture.

We will have on display two special items from the Society collection: an original architectural rendering along with the photo record of the auditorium's construction by Tom Sparks and other Culver High newspaper staff ('64 grads) who recorded the construction and the 1964 opening.

Members, Culver High students and grads, and the public are invited to enjoy this free program. Entry is through the Archives and Resource Center from the back parking.

## 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.

### Newsletter Editor

Joy Jacobs

### OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Michelle Bernardin, President  
Stu Freeman, Immediate Past President  
Janet Chabola, VP, Development  
Ellen & Arthur Litman, VP, Museum/ARC  
Hope Parrish, VP, Programs  
Tami Eskridge, Treasurer  
Adrienne Bernardin, Secretary  
Ryan Vincent, Communications Chair  
Denice Renteria, Costumes Chair  
Julie Lugo Cerra, Historic Sites Chair  
Jeanne Conklin, Membership Chair  
Steven J. Rose, Government Liaison  
Kevin Lachoff, Photographer

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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### STAY CONNECTED

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

### MEMBERSHIP

The Culver City Historical Society exists because of the involvement and generosity of people like you. Please help strengthen our voice for preserving Culver City's architectural and cultural heritage by becoming a member. [CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership](http://CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership)

## In Memoriam

Honorable Harold Cherness  
Maxine Mytar  
Marguerite Wild



## Your President's Message

By Michelle Bernardin

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Spring! I should shy away from commenting in print on El Niño rainfall for fear of a deluge by the time this newsletter goes to print. But, our umbrellas are for sale (and 25% off!) should such an occasion arise!

Thank you to those who attended the Installation Dinner on January 20. I hope that you will have the chance to meet our newest board members very soon – Ellen and Arthur Litman, co-Vice Presidents of Museum/Archives; Janet Chabola, VP of Development; Ryan Vincent, a classmate of mine from Culver City High School and our new communications chair; and Denice Renteria, costumes chair.

You will also notice our first ad in this issue. At the end of last year we began to offer space in this newsletter for our members to submit advertisements. 500 newsletters are printed each quarter and are widely distributed. Ads (printed in black and white) cost \$150 for 1/6-page (horizontal or vertical, approximately 4-1/2" x 2-3/8"), one ad per issue will be featured, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Any questions on ad specifications or to make reservations, please contact me directly at [michelle@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:michelle@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org). Placing an advertisement can enhance your visibility with our membership, and city at large.

I look forward to sharing more of our plans to celebrate our city's centennial as they start to take shape. Visit our website and like or follow us on the social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to keep connected with us!

Thank you for your support of your historical society!

## Welcome To Our New Members

Baron Bruno  
Christina Fields  
Tess Halavy  
Kay Heineman  
Colin Jacobs  
Dolores Mahler Miller  
Ryan Vincent

## Please Renew Your Membership!

This is a friendly reminder that membership renewals were due in January. To verify your membership expiration, please check the mailing label. You can renew (or join!) online: [www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership](http://www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership). Pay instantly with a credit card and save a stamp! We count on the support of our members to maintain the Archives and Museum, and to continue the promotion and preservation of Culver City history. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

## Now's the time. Make your move!

The real estate market is once again shifting and homes are selling quickly – very quickly. Many people have been waiting for just the right moment to maximize profits; *your* time may be now.

- Demand is high and we have many qualified cash buyers.
- Home values have increased.
- The number of days a home is on the market is down.
- Mortgage rates are still at historic lows.
- Multiple buyers are bidding on the same property.

Contact Us Today to learn what is happening in Culver City and how you can benefit.



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## Notes From Your City Historian

By Julie Lugo Cerra

### Historic Sites

The first "historic marker" to commemorate a historic site in Culver City was placed on the colonnade entry of Thomas Ince's first studio (now Sony Pictures) by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. Our own Clarita Marquez Young was a part of that, years before our historical society was established. The next marking took place in Victory Park, now Dr. Paul Carlson Park, a Culver City Chamber of Commerce action to commemorate the Early Settler Families.

Our society's marking process calls for identification of historic sites or structures in Culver City that are at least fifty years old. The society's bylaws recognizes a Historic Sites Committee, which submits sites, with justification, to the board for action, with approval by the property owner for placement and wording for a bronze plaque. Some are placed on a building, while others are mounted in concrete. The committee orders the marker, within the funds budgeted. Cost is a function of the size and number of words. From the beginning, our historical society used the opportunity to tell the story of the site.

After our society formed, Charles R. Lugo served as the first historic sites chair. At that time, the city did not have an historic preservation ordinance, so it was a new venture for all of us.

The Historic Sites Committee plans the unveiling of the marker while the plaque is in production. Invitations and publicity are sent by the society. The program is a cooperative effort of the society and property owner. Although the event itself is a festive occasion, the goal of preserving local history is met over time.

With the upcoming celebration of our city's centennial year, we are looking for suggestions for a centennial marking, and members to serve on the committee.

To learn more about each site already marked, you can search the City of Culver City website: <http://www.culvercityhistoricalsociety.org/historic-sites>. Here is a list of sites we have marked to date:

- #1 City Hall
- #2 The Hull Building
- #3 St. Augustine Church
- #4 The Citizen Building
- #5 The Legion Building
- #6 Main Street
- #7 Ince Studio #2
- #8 Lugo Ranch
- #9 The Helms Building
- #10 La Ballona School
- #11 Camp Latham
- #12 Culver City's first park (Carlson)
- #13 Veterans Memorial Building

To learn more about our marked sites, volunteer for the Historic Sites committee, or offer a suggestion for a Centennial marking, please contact the Society!



The festive marking of the site of La Ballona School, now in its third structure. Did you know that La Ballona just celebrated its 150th anniversary?



## Mark Your Calendar

Apr. 20: General Meeting and Program  
Multipurpose Room, VMB 7PM

May: National Historic Preservation Month

July 20: General Meeting and Program  
Multipurpose Room, VMB 7PM

## ARC OPEN DATES

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM

April 3

April 17

May 1

May 15

June 5

June 19

July 3

July 17

**\*Conversations Program: stay tuned!**

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Helen Rose designed the 19th century style dress for The Merry Widow. The dress is made of silk satin with gold vine embroidery. The film was nominated for an Academy Award, Best Costume Design, Color. This is the first time it has been displayed at the ARC.



New officers and committee chairs for the 2016-2018 term were installed on January 20. Pictured L-R are Kevin Lachoff, Installing Officer and Society Photographer; Michelle Bernardin, President; Arthur and Ellen Litman, VP Museum/ARC; Adrienne Bernardin, Secretary; Tami Eskridge, Treasurer; and Janet Chabola, VP, Development.