



Culver City Historical Society Newsletter



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Get Your Motor Runnin...(My Autoshop Elective at Culver High)

By Maureen (Miller) Fleming

In 1977, I decided to take Auto shop an elective offered at Culver High. When I got to registration, I firmly requested "Auto shop." The middle-aged woman clerk took a step back. She sized me up for a minute and then shook her finger at me... She went to the back, squabbled a bit with the administrators, and put her foot down. She then returned and proudly exclaimed "You're In!" I feel she wanted me to be a poster girl for Women's Lib, but honestly, all I wanted to do was learn to fix a flat tire. This nice lady took a stand for me that day, like if they turned me down, she would burn her bra in protest.

A friend let me use their uncle's old coveralls for class. He must have been one big guy, because they were so baggy, but they were mine now, already broken in with grease stains.

Our first task was to disassemble a Bendix brake. Every time I tried, a boy would grab it from me and the gentleman in him would say "Here, let me do that for you." So, I never learned that skill. Anyway, brakes don't get rebuilt anymore, since around 1990 when China made it cheaper to throw them in the garbage



and put in new parts to save on labor. I also remember cleaning old parts in solvent with a wire brush but no matter how hard you scrubbed;

they never looked any cleaner. Until one day Mr. Andrade secretly let me dunk mine in carburetor cleaner overnight and what a shiny sparkling difference it made. I didn't tell the guys and just sneaked it back under the dirty solvent where all of us were toiling away. When I took it out, I said, "finally finished." You should have seen their faces. "How did you get it so clean?" "Elbow grease! Just keep at it!" It cracks me up to this day. Since that era, Electives are not offered like they used to be. It's a little sad. Back in the day kids had the opportunity to learn real life skills, like woodshop, metal shop or cooking! Of course, some skills became obsolete. I still don't know why I had to memorize the firing order of a 350 Chevy, but I'll never forget it. Just in case...

Upcoming Program

General Membership Meeting and Program:

**Discovering Film Locations: From The Little Rascals to Public Safety for Kids
Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, Tuesday, April 22 at 7PM**



Chris Bungo presents a unique program exploring many film locations where classic old-time films were shot in Culver City and Venice. Chris shows us film clips from years gone by and the exact location as it is today. Examples will include film clips from The Little Rascals, Laurel and Hardy, and TV series from the 1980's. This nostalgic trip will contrast the free-wheeling Little Rascals era with the safety-conscious attitudes of 1963 with a look at a public safety film. We are also expecting a surprise guest who will relive her experience of being a child star.

This event is free to the public and we look forward to seeing you!

President's Message



I'm excited to begin my new role as president of CCHS. I want to thank the Board members for giving me the wonderful opportunity to lead this organization. I especially want to thank Hope Parrish, who created a blueprint for all aspects of the Society. Her leadership has provided us with an organized way of operating, preserving, and conserving the items in our collection.

During her seven years as president, Hope has done a tremendous job of improving our museum and archives. The intern program she began a few years ago continues. It has provided us with enthusiastic students who are interested in our local history and completing research projects.

We have been most fortunate to have new volunteers who bring with them a wealth of film knowledge and experience working with archives. All these factors are propelling this organization to new heights!

We have extended the museum hours an additional hour. We are now open every other Sunday, from 12:00 to 3:00. We would also like to open the museum every Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 but we need additional volunteers to do so.

Dennis Parrish has an invaluable member of our team, and he went out with a bang! His program in January highlighting his fascinating career of over 50 years in the film industry. The Rotunda room was packed, and the video of his presentation online has had numerous views.

Our organization continues to participate in various civic events, including the well-attended Culver City Book Fair as well as the Screenland 5K. Our experience at the Book Fair was highly successful. We sold many books and we had a wonderful opportunity to promote and inform the attendees about the Culver City Historical Society.

Something to look forward to is Chris Bungo's presentation on April 22nd and an author's event to be held in May. I am personally looking forward to continuing to work with the Board, our volunteers, and the interns and most importantly you, the members!

Jack R. Bommarito

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

Jack Bommarito	President
Hope M. Parrish	Immediate Past President
Mark Morris	VP Programs/Media Archives
Maureen Fleming	VP Museum Chair
Douglas Newton	VP Development
Mara Bommarito	Secretary
Carolyn Wispe Burns	Co-Treasurer
Beverly Peterson	Co-Treasurer
Michael Laase	Parliamentarian
Jeanne Conklin	Membership Chair
Valerie Meyer	Costumes Chair
Ron Peterson	In-House Photographer
Anissa Di Vincente	Webmaster
Michael Chiabauda	Photo Archives
Hope M. Parrish	Historic Sites Chair
Andrew Weissman	Government Liaison
Anissa Di Weissman	Webmaster
Michael Chiabauda	Photo Archives
Sofia Stark	Newsletter Editor and Designer

ARCHIVE/RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

Hope M. Parrish, Tami Eskridge, Jeanne Conklin, Michael Potterton, Dennis Parrish, Elizabeth Voncannon, Josh Insel, Rebecca Goodman, and Steve Newton

INTERNS

Sophia Vegas, Samanta Pandey, Hailey Garcia, Noelle Warner, and Adelaide Sotor

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Silvia Donati, Tom Exton, Josh Insel, Michael Potterton, and Evan Puziss



Thank you, Dennis Parrish! Your finale program "Around the World in Fifty Years" gave us a peek into your amazing life, career, and your hard work! You up'd the bar as VP of Programs and we thank you for all you do for our Society and our Community. Thank you, Karim Sahli, and Mayor Dan O'Brien for celebrating Dennis with us!

Announcement



Meet your current Executive Board for CC Historical Society 2025-2027.

As pictured: Hope M. Parrish (Immediate Past President), Doug Newton (VP Development), Mara Bommarito (Secretary), Caroline Wispe Burns (Co-Treasurer), Beverly Peterson (Co-Treasurer), Jack Bommarito (President), Mark Morris (VP Programs). Not pictured: Maureen Fleming (VP Museum).

2025 Installation Recap



Front Desk - Installation 2025



Jeanne, Hope, Valerie and Tami



Margie & Michael



Mark Morris - VP Programs



Leonard Wilborn & Jim Clarke



The gangs all here!

THANK YOU TO



FOR THEIR DONATION!

THANK YOU TO



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THANK YOU TO



FOR THEIR DONATION!

Mark's Video of the Season: Check out an LA secret hideaway...the Hobbit House in LA!

<https://youtu.be/3zvK-vkbhWk?si=edQMyWUdUzWz6tp4>

Costumes in the Building



This Unidentified Costume is part of our MGM Costume Collection. It is made of yellow, black, white and pale green plaid Taffeta with a hot pink waistband. Noelle Warner (pictured) while assisting Valerie Meyer with this costume, found a small tag with the name "Patricia Lenn" on the inside... She may have been a background Artist for MGM as we find only one listing. We need your help, keeping an eye out for this one. Calling all TCM enthusiasts.



WHERE AM I??

These two images are fun! It's Sepulveda & Washington Blvd. probably around 1962. The Big Donut (the Good Will now stands) & who remembers Dolores' Drive-In – next to Albertson Oldsmobile? They had that really cool red rocket. This is now the Culver Crossroads where Randy's Donuts is!!

Spotlight



Chris Bungo grew up in New Jersey. During college he worked as a radio DJ, and for a few years after graduating college. He Co-founded a software company with a friend from college who also worked in radio. Their company created and sold software for radio stations from 1992 until 2024 when they sold the company.

In 2012 he had the idea to create *Then and Now* views at the movie locations where they were filmed. He began shooting exact matching photos and video of those locations as they look today. As you might imagine, this required some amazing research, location scouting and detective work. He developed clever editing techniques to illustrate and identify the spots where scenes were shot. Now he devotes full time attention to ChrisBungoStudios.com filming locations then and now historical website. With now almost 150 videos and close to 2000 photos on his website.

If you are cleaning out your garage and come across any Culver City Junior High, Senior High year books, or Local CC Phone Directories from any decade, we want to be their new home!!

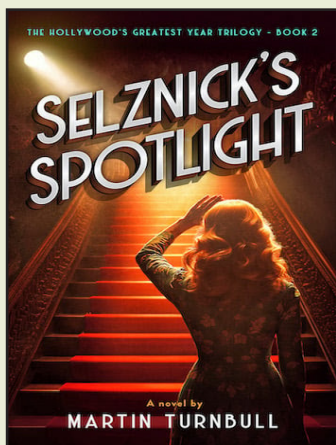
Culver's Corner

Selznick's Girl Friday

By Martin Turnbull

We always love the opportunity to see Martin Turnbull, our great Society friend. Martin is a wonderful Hollywood Fictional Writer, who has given us his Trilogy Book Series, "The Garden of Allah". He has now launched his new Novel Series, "The Hollywood's Great Year Trilogy", which takes place in 1939, affectionately known as the greatest year in Hollywood History.

News Flash: Martin's second novel in this series is launching in June, "Selznick's Spotlight".



Another fantastic "Small book – Book Faire" thank you to the Village Well, Culver City Arts Foundation and the Wende Museum for providing this great venue! See you next year!

Historical Highlight



Mayor Mary Lou Richardson appoints
Desi Arnez and Lucille Ball –
MAYORS for the DAY! (1958)

As we celebrate National Woman's Month, we thought it fitting to introduce some of you to a pretty remarkable woman, Mary Lou Richardson. Who is she? Well let me share...

Mary Louise Porter, was born on Dec. 29th, 1917 in Council Grove Kansas, to Alfred and Emma Porter. Mary Lou, as she was frequently called, married Ralph M. Richardson in 1939, in Jackson Missouri. Around 1948 Ralph was offered a job at UCLA as a Speech Instructor. The Richardson's moved to California in with their eldest son Riley. She had 3 more children born in California, Randy, Roxanne, & Eric. Her husband Ralph became a longtime member of the Los Angeles Unified School Board – 3 terms and the Los Angeles Community College District (1973-1981). Mary Lou while raising her children and the Richardson's now living in Culver city, Mary Lou decided she would run for our city council. In 1956 Mary Lou, became our first elected woman to serve on our City Council from 1956-1960. She would become the first Female Mayor of Culver City to serve our community in 1958 - 1959.

After her time on our council Mary Lou continued her work here in Culver City. She was a Math Specialist with our Culver City School System from 1965 until her retirement in 1978. Mary Lou & Ralph moved to Laguna Hills, where she passed away at home on October 9th, 1989. Thank you, Mary Louise Porter Richardson, you opened a door. We have had 5 amazing ladies follow in your footsteps. With more on the horizon, I am sure!



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ARC OPEN DATES: 1st and 3rd Sundays, 12–3PM

April 6th and 20th, May 4th and 18th, June 1st and 15th

April 23rd: Spring Music Concert — AVPA

Robert Frost Auditorium, 7PM

May 4th: A Taste of Culver City

Amazon Studios, 2PM–5PM

May 10th: Culver City Car Show — CC Exchange Club

Downtown Culver City, 9AM–3PM

May 31st: Java Gala 17 — AVPA

Robert Frost Auditorium, 2PM–4PM

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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 Wende Museum	Justin Jampol	(310) 216-1600

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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

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Voluntary Contribution to Museum Fund \$ _____

Voluntary Contribution to Julie Lugo Cerra Scholarship Fund \$ _____

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The Culver City Historical Society, P.O. Box 1356, Culver City, CA 90232

Tax Deductible 501(c)(3) #95-4188800

Or join online at CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership