



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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The Rollerdrome Was My Neighbor

By Lydia Spiegelman

The Rollerdrome was my love. I lived only four houses from it on Bentley Avenue. I spent many, many hours meeting people and learning to skate. I took lessons every Saturday morning and had races with fellow skaters. My Friday nights were spent at the Rollerdrome with friends, going out afterward for a "Piece O' Pizza" across the street. (Eating pizza at 11:00pm is certainly something I can't do now!) All of my childhood memories are there. Wonderful times spending birthdays, and just going to have fun. I can still remember the Rollerdrome's comforting smell. As I got older, going on dates and skating "couples only" was so fun and special, especially if a good skater asked you to skate. This magical place was my heaven and I loved every moment I spent there. I still have my skates, with the original case and decals on it, and plan to leave them to our Historical Society. Still like new with precision wheels, which was all the rage at that time. It made skating so much smoother.

I remember when they filmed *The Fugitive* at the Rollerdrome. It was very exciting to see a T.V. show being made right in our neighborhood. I was so thrilled to see David Janssen in person. Handsome as ever!

My parents' bedroom was in the front of our house and every summer they opened the windows to let some cool air in because we didn't have air conditioning. I remember my dad used to say, "I can't sleep over that organ!" We lived

so close that we could hear the organ playing and could dance to it. It was a wonderful time and I knew it. A very special period in my life, as it was in so many other lives. To this day I love hearing organ music and it reminds me of that magical place. Memories are made of this.



Lydia, c.1956. (Lydia Spiegelman)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15, 2020 – General Meeting and Installation of Officers Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM

The Culver City Historical Society's Winter General Membership Meeting will be an Installation Reception held on Wednesday January 15, 2020, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This will be the installation of Hope Parrish's second term as President and the 2020-2022 Board, as well as a thank you to the outgoing Board and Committee chairs. The Board slate is as follows:

Hope M. Parrish, President
Michelle Bernardin, Immediate Past President
Emelie Gerard, VP Development
TBD, VP Programs
Tami Eskridge, VP Museum/Archives
Caroline Wispe-Burns, Treasurer
TBD, Secretary

The Installing Officer will be Vice Mayor, Göran Eriksson.

Seating is limited and reservations are a must for the hors d'oeuvres reception. The price is \$25/member; \$30/non-member. Use the enclosed reservation form to send a check (payable to CCHS) to the Culver City Historical Society (address on the back of this newsletter, or use the membership envelope along with your renewal!) no later than Wednesday, January 8, 2020. **Reservations must be pre-paid.** We look forward to seeing you!

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Dear Members and Friends:

As we close 2019, reflecting on the honor it is to volunteer for this society, I want to recognize the many individuals dedicating time to this museum. I need to thank all of you. This society's growth is dependent on its memberships, longtime to our most recent.

Dedicated volunteers, from our board to our youngest docent, you are the backbone of the museum. Since my term began, the Wednesday docents have worked very hard to update our database, allowing for more content description and photos of each item searched. The process of entering the data is very detailed, but our docents have made great progress getting our museum digitized. We have a state-of-the-art microfilm machine gifted to the Society from the Sahli-Wells family. Knowing we will soon be able to access the *Star News* from 1950-1980 will bring new light to researching.

And the acquisitions! Where to begin? Red Skelton's fan mail, buried items at the Ivy Station dig, Stan Laurel's bow tie, Little League collection and, on loan, the bible used in the 1935 version of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. Our two biggest donations (literally) were from the Art Directors Guild, four original MGM backdrops, and a 12'x3' stained-glass window from *The Magnificent Ambersons*. I am grateful to Steve Auer and Hackman Capital Partners for including the Historical Society in the preservation effort of four film historic windows three from *Ambersons* and the finale window from *Gone with the Wind*, tucked away on The Culver Studios property for the past 80 years.

I look forward to another two years as President and hope we see you on January 15 for our board installation. Peace, Love, and Preservation! Happy New Year!



Hope Parrish with the stained glass window from *The Magnificent Ambersons*.

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

Michelle Bernardin

Newsletter Design

Sue Slutzky

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hope M. Parrish, President

Michelle Bernardin, Immediate Past President

Ryan Vincent, VP, Programs

Carolyn Wispe Burns, Treasurer

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Denice Renteria, Costumes Chair

Julie Lugo Cerra, Historic Sites Chair

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Michael Laase, Parliamentarian

Kevin Lachoff, Photographer

Mark Morris, Video Editor

Scott Malsin, Webmaster

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STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org

facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety

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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

In Memoriam

Laura Frakes

Bill Hahn

Harold Hanslmair

Welcome Our New Members

Selma Calmes & Robert Woodhams

Maureen Fleming

Darrell Garrett

Patricia Limbaugh

Amy Loftus

Larry Weiner

Jerry Beck, animation historian and presenter at our October 16 General Meeting and Program. (Kevin Lachoff)





Capturing the History of Our City's Leadership in Images

There is always a story in history! I would like to share one with you and then ask for your help. Many years ago, two city employees rescued some of Culver City's historic assets. Both men worked on the second floor of the previous city hall, which is still remembered by many who walk through the façade entry on that site today

at Culver Boulevard and Duquesne Avenue. While the aforementioned employees, Dale Jones (CAO) and Saverio Cerra (Engineering), were looking through a top floor storage space, they noticed boxes of saved items, including a collection of mounted photos. The images were Culver City's elected officials starting in 1917,

the year the city was incorporated. The list began with R.P. Davidson, the first chairman of the Board of Trustees (1917-18), Walter Edwards, V.R. Day, Mrs. V.R. Day (appointed to fill husband's term), etc. Later, the remnants of this collection, which ended in 1960, were given to our Culver City Historical Society for safe keeping.

Over time, the plaques helped to broaden our knowledge of the early City Trustees, now City Councilmembers. With your assistance, we can update the wall of honor. We are beginning to receive some of the missing portraits. Please help if you can—if you have high-quality portraits or can let relatives or the individuals on this list know! Reach out to us via email or phone call. We have the resources to perma-plaque images to match the original plaques, some of which appear in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers.

From incorporation in 1917 to date,
we need images of the following officials:

B.J. Higuera (1917)	Dr. James Boulgarides (1972-80, 1988-96)
Mrs. V.R. Day (1921)	Richard Alexander (1974-90)
Dan F. Coombs (1920-29)	A. Ronald Perkins (1974-86)
W. S. McNeir (1920)	Richard Ross Brundo (1976-88)
Earl Bobier (1922-30)	Paul Jacobs (1976-92)
David E. Clark (1926-32)	Jozelle Smith (1986-94)
John F. Lehman (1932-40)	Steven Gourley (1988-96)
Phillip F. Stephon (1932-40)	Ian Michael Balkman (1990-98)
Arthur Segrell (1934-38, 1942-6, 1946-50)	Albert Vera (1992-2000, 2002-06)
R. H. Segrell (1934-42)	Edward Wolkowitz (1994-2002)
Francis Robert Reeves (1938-40)	Sandra Levin (1996-2000)
Ray L. Haskell (1940-44)	Richard Marcus (1996-2000)
Walter H. Hahn (1944-45, recalled)	David Hauptman (1998-2002)
Robert C. LaComb (1944-45, recalled)	Alan Corlin (2000-08)
Thomas J. Carroll (1945, 1948-52)	Carol Gross (2000-08)
William G. Douglas, Jr. (1946-50)	Steven J. Rose (2000-08)
Edward T. Castle (1950-54)	Gary Silbiger (2002-10)
Harlan J. Thompson (1952-54)	Scott Malsin (2006-10, 2010-11)
Joseph L. Sullivan (1952-56)	Christopher Armenta (2008-12)
Ed Juline (1952-56)	Mehaul O'Leary (2008-16)
Robert Unruhe (1956-60)	Andrew Weissman (2008-16)
Raymond O'Neal (1958-62)	Jeffrey Cooper (2010-18)
Garland F. Garrett (1960-64)	Meghan Sahli-Wells (2012-20)
Gerald Margolis (1962-66)	Jim Clarke (2012-14, 2014-18)
Joe Lawless (1964-68)	Thomas Aujero Small (2016-20)
Martin A. Lotz (1968-76)	Goran Ericsson (2016-20)
John Carl Brogdon (1970-74)	Alex Fisch (2018-22)
Richard Pachtman (1970-78)	Thomas Lee (2018-22)



Former Mayor Michael Tellefson (Julie Lugo Cerra)

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Membership renewal is due in January 2020. You can do this online! Please go to our website at CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership. There, you will be able to pay instantly with your credit card and save a stamp! Obviously, you don't need to renew if you are a Lifetime member, but please consider making a donation. We count on the support of our members to be able to maintain the Archives, and to continue the promotion and preservation of Culver City history.

Your continued support is always greatly appreciated. Thank you!



P.O. Box 3428
Culver City, CA 90231-3428
CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org (310) 253-6941

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 15 – General Meeting and Installation of Officers
Rotunda Room, VMB, 7PM

April 15 – General Meeting and Program
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

ARC OPEN DATES – 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM
January 5, January 19, February 2, February 16,
March 1, March 15

Business Member Roster

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

Supporting Corporate and Non Profit Sponsors

Culver City Exchange Club Dr. Bob Montgomery (310) 499-4840
Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary Paul Goldstein (310) 641-0707
Sony Pictures Entertainment Kristin Cavanaugh (310) 244-5368

Supporting Business Members

Cantalini's Salerno Beach Restaurant Lisa Schwab (310) 821-0018
Cavanaugh Realtors Dannie Cavanaugh (310) 837-7161
Culver City Flower Shop Mike Eskridge (310) 839-2344
The Culver Hotel Geeta Mallick (310) 838-7323
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Göran Eriksson / Techtrans Göran Eriksson (310) 841-2901
Ken Harada, D.D.S. Ken Harada (310) 837-5121
History For Hire Pam and Jim Elyea (818) 765-7767
JLF Appraisals & Estates Joel and Linda Forman (310) 837-7455
John Riordan Plumbing John Riordan (310) 838-4656
Keller Williams Silicon Beach Noel Boix (310) 463-4242
REsource Los Angeles at Keller
Williams Silicon Beach Baron Bruno (424) 465-3225
Santa Maria BBQ Jim Rodrigues (310) 559-5709
SendOutCards Richard A. Marcus (310) 397-4696
Tower Insurance Associates Janice Beighey (310) 837-6101

Please 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!

- ☐ Benefactor (\$1,000)
- ☐ Corporate Sponsor (\$500)
- ☐ Family Lifetime Member (\$500)
- ☐ Individual Lifetime Member (\$300)
- ☐ Patron Member (\$100)
- ☐ Business Member (\$50)
- ☐ Family Member (\$30)
- ☐ Individual Member (\$20)
- ☐ Non Profit Organization (\$15)
- ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name/Company _____

Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Voluntary Contribution to Museum Fund \$ _____

Please check type of membership and enclose your check payable to:
The Culver City Historical Society, P.O. Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428

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