



# CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2023

## Memories of A Lifelong Culver City Bookworm

By Mara Bommarito

Growing up in Culver City during the 1960s and early 70s, gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling—especially reminiscing about those glorious days of summer!

My daily schedule began at the Plunge, with afternoons spent at the Culver City Library (the current Teen Center.) That little brick building played a seminal role in my young life. It became my second home, a great source for learning and pleasure reading. Being a daily patron and a voracious reader, every librarian knew me. I researched subjects I found interesting, taking copious notes on Ancient Egypt and exotic animals. By 1969, I knew I was destined to be an archaeologist or a zoologist!



Culver City Public Library

Every summer, the library was filled with activities. The participants received a large folder to list the titles of books read. I treasure my folder, from the reading contest in the summer of 1968. Another activity I enjoyed was poetry writing. The librarians typed up our poetic contributions, decorating each page and placing them in prominent locations for all to read. I remember feeling so proud to see my own words in print. After spending a happy summer afternoon in the library, I loved nothing more than taking home a big stack of books and reading them to my heart's content.

I vividly remember the day I heard

the library was moving to a much larger new building. This was very concerning! How was my library experience going to be affected? In 1970, the new library opened in its current location. How spacious and foreign it seemed! Seeing my old friends on the shelves and new books waiting to be discovered was reassuring.

Did I become an archaeologist or zoologist based on my youthful interests? No, but I did choose a career that continued sharing my love of reading with thousands of children. For 40 years as a teacher and then school principal, I filled my classrooms and my school with books! Kudos to the Culver City library for having a significant role in molding me into the person I am today!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – General Membership Meeting and Program**

**CULVER CITY BARS, DIVES, AND BISTROS**

**Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM**



Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle in front of Plantation Café (credit)

Did you know that silent film star, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle opened a Night Club across the street from La Ballona Elementary School? Dennis Parrish, long-time resident of Culver City, will walk you down Washington Blvd of yester year. Learn about the many famous bars, bistros and cafés operating there during the Prohibition era-- Kings Tropical Inn, Sebastian's Cotton Club, Fatty Arbuckle's Plantation Café and Big Ed's. Join us for this fun and historical trip through Culver City's rather bawdy past. The program will include a photographic essay of Culver City from the 20's through the 50's. What a jumping place it was during this era!

**Please note: this program is on Tuesday, April 18, 7PM.**

This free program is open to the public. Masks are not required.

# YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Happy Spring 2023 to our members and friends...

We've been busy! In January our new officers were installed by Mike "Mr. Culver City" Cohen, followed by a wonderful program presented by Nick Sparks, Co-Founder of Periscope Films. Nick shared the work in film preservation undertaken by Periscope. That evening's video is on our YouTube channel for viewing. Thank you, Nick and Mike!

We have some new faces. First, Maureen Fleming, who has begun implementing new displays with enthusiasm as our new VP of Museum and Archives.

Also stepping up to the plate, is a lover of history, storytelling, and is Mara's hubby-- Jack Bommarito! Jack joins Denice Renteria as Co-VP of Development. They have been hard at work arranging for volunteers to provide walking tours in celebration of the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jim Shanman's Walk & Rollers.

We say goodbye to longtime photographer and friend, Kevin Lachoff, and welcome Ron Peterson, as our new In House Photographer. Beverly Peterson has also joined the Board as Co-Treasurer with Carolyn Burns. Valerie Meyer officially chairs our Costume Collection with Madisen Matsuura, past intern, assisting her.

Dennis Parrish is back and will present a series of programs about Culver City's early clubs and night life! And finally, Anissa Di Vincente is our new Webmaster!!

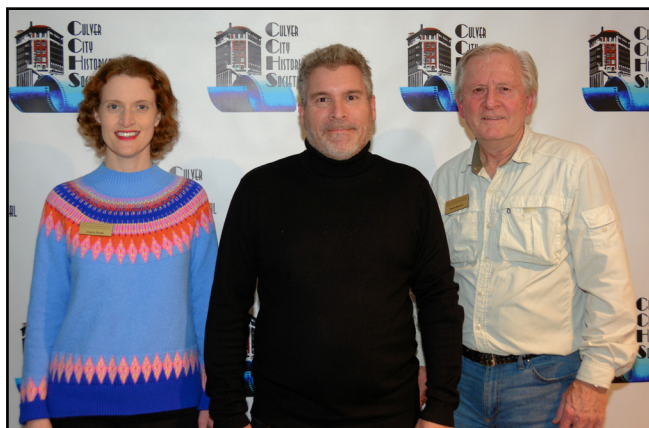
Fridays at the ARC are swarming with busy bees ! You can see Elizabeth Voncannon going through boxes of history donated over the years.

Thanks to our continued collaboration with Adrienne Madrid, Career Counselor at CCHS, we have 3 new students-interns; Eve Mott, Maren Brown, and Taj Neufeld. Each of them bringing great energy to the museum!! Special thanks to all our volunteers; it takes a Village!

All of this is only possible because of the support and generous donations from our members and sponsors. Thank you!

See you at the Program!

–Hope



Clare Denk, Nick Sparks and Mark Morris at the January General Membership Meeting & Program, January 17, 2023 (Hope Parrish)

## 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 AND DESIGNER

Sofia Stark

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

## INTERNS

Maren Brown, Eve Mott, Taj Neufeld

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

## STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org  
facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety  
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## MEMBERSHIP

The Culver City Historical Society exists because of the involvement and generosity of our members and community. Join us and be a voice for preserving Culver City's architectural and cultural heritage by becoming a member.  
CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership

## IN MEMORIUM

Drayton Marsh

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jacob Acosta  
Ashlea Ebeling  
Valerie Meyer  
Joscelyn Lauren  
Corkie Van Zak  
Anne Tower Productions, Inc.

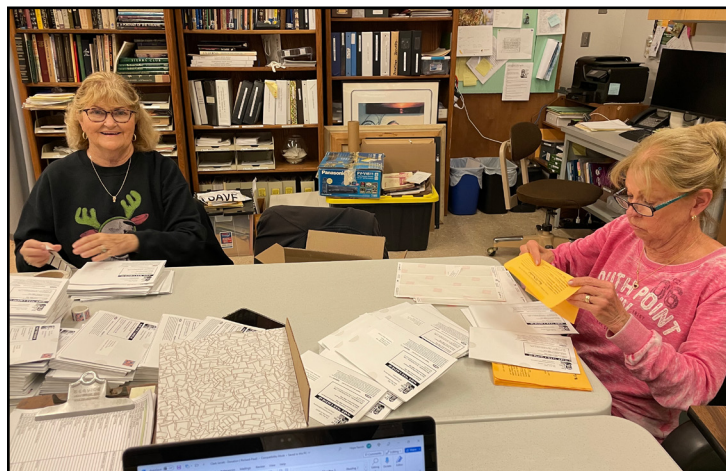


## RECENT EVENTS AND VISITORS

Photos courtesy of Hope Parrish



Rainy field trip with the interns to find Dick Van Dyke Boulevard.



Tami Eskridge and Jeanne Conklin archiving CC History.



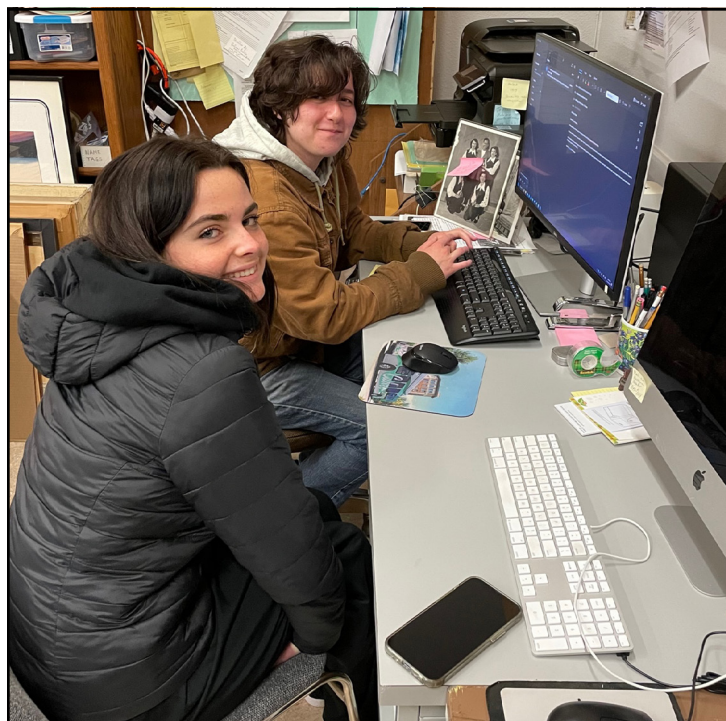
Maren Brown carefully organizing and archiving.



CCHS Alumni spanning from 1963-2022 enjoying a Sunday afternoon in the Museum.



Hope Parrish, current President, with Cathy Zermeno our very first President.



Taj Newfeld and Eve Mott researching a project.





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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**July 18 – General Meeting and Program**  
**Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM**

**ARC OPEN DATES – 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1–3PM**  
April 2 and 16, May 7 and 21, June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16



**Support (at no extra cost to you!)**

We depend on your membership and donations to keep the archives running. 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.

### 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.

#### Benefactor

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Denice Renteria ..... Denice Renteria  
Meghan Sahli-Wells and Karim Sahli ..... The Sahli Family

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The Wende Museum ..... Justin Jampol (310) 699-9261

### 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 (\$35)
- ☐ Individual Member (\$25)
- ☐ 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 1356, Culver City, CA 90232

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