



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 42, No.4
Spring 2022

The Chamber Turned 100 and Honored Community Service

By Denice Renteria

In early March, the Culver City Chamber of Commerce celebrated its first 100 years of support for local businesses while recognizing its many members and volunteers in the business community, and also installing a new chair. It was a wonderful event that included live music, and it was a real treat to see everyone dressed up in person, rather than virtually.

For the gala and centennial celebration, Culver City Historical Society President Hope Parrish created a timeline of the Chamber's accomplishments – from the first meeting minutes to the latest city proclamation. Business directories were on display, along with awards and photos of ribbon cuttings throughout the years.

The Chamber's Legacy of Service Award, voted on by the community and Chamber members, highlights a member who goes above and beyond in the community. This year's nominees were Ed Wolkowitz, Jeff Cooper, Michael Hackman, and Hope.

The Historical Society was well-represented with a table full of family, officers, and members showing support to both our Society and president.

We listened in anticipation to Culver City Chamber President & CEO Colin Diaz as he listed all the accomplishments, service clubs, time, and projects this

person has been involved in over the years. Then he said, "You may have seen some of their work tonight." We were overjoyed to hear Hope's name called, knowing all her hard work and efforts over the years had been recognized. "This is the first time I've ever been speechless!" Hope stated as she received the award.

Congratulations to the Chamber on 100 years, to all the award recipients, to Colin and his team, and to my mentor and friend, Hope.



VP of Development Denice Renteria and Historical Society President Hope Parrish.
(Denice Renteria)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 General Meeting and Program Up, Up and Away Multipurpose Room, Veterans Memorial Building, 7PM



Paul "Pete" Leaman at the Culver City Airport, c. 1930 (Larry Leaman)

Before there was a Los Angeles International Airport, several small airports peppered the Southern California landscape, including one in Culver City.

By the late 1920s, Culver City was at the forefront of two pioneering and burgeoning industries: motion pictures and aviation. Did you know that the Culver City Airport was used by such notable aviators as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart?

Join us as historian Marc Wanemaker and Historical Society president Hope Parrish co-present this look at our early local airports and how Culver City played a part in this aviation history.

Please note that this program will be on **Tuesday, April 19, 7PM.**

The public is invited to this free program. Regardless of vaccination status, L.A. County Public Health strongly recommends that people continue to wear masks that fit and filter well in all indoor public places.

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Hello Members, Friends, and Neighbors,

As we spring forward and turn another corner with Covid, it is my hope that 2022 brings us more opportunities to be in-person again. Over the last two years, our community has faced many challenges, but hopefully we are moving toward the other side.

We continue our growth with new members, donations, and volunteers! I am so pleased to announce we have a new Costumes Chair, Valerie Meyer! Valerie,

a fellow Culver City High School grad, recently retired, having worked as a home economics teacher for many years, and Secretary Mara suggested she could be perfect. Without hesitation, Valerie said YES! Under former chair Denice Renteria's guidance, Valerie and our intern Madisen Matsuura jumped in and began the process of changing out our costume display on view (see photo on page 3).

Donations come in many fashions. Our former Society President Stu Freeman recently donated in the memory of his lovely sister, Sandra. We would also like to thank Karim Sahli and Meghan Sahli-Wells for their generous gift this year. Steve Auer, our friend and former lot manager at Culver Studios, retired and donated a 16mm print of Thomas Ince's tour of the Studios in 1921.

After recently celebrating the centennial of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, we learned our friend and colleague Chamber President Colin Diaz announced that he and his family are moving to Arizona. We thank Colin for his support of the Society's work and send best wishes on his new journey.

I would also like to thank Jim Shanman of the Culver City Walk & Rollers, Mark Lipman of Vagabond Books, Justin Jampol of the Wende Museum, and the Culver City Education Foundation for including us in their recent events.

Our Open Sundays have been bustling with energy! If you also find your Sunday afternoon is open, please stop by and join us!

Best wishes and thanks to you all.

– Hope

Thank You for Giving!

We are grateful for our recent benefactor gifts:

Meghan Sahli-Wells and Karim Sahli

Stu Freeman, in memory of Sandra Freeman Wager

We Moved (P.O. Boxes)!

We got a new post office box about a year ago:
P.O. Box 1356, Culver City, CA 90232

Mail forwarding from our former box has expired,
so please update that card in your Rolodex!
(All our other contact information remains the same.)

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 Editors

Michelle Bernardin, Ryan Vincent

Newsletter Design

Sue Slutzky

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hope M. Parrish, President

Michelle Bernardin, Immediate Past President

Denice Renteria, VP, Development

Tami Eskridge, VP, Museum and Archives

Clare Denk, VP, Programs

Carolyn Wispe Burns, Treasurer

Mara Bommarito, Secretary

Valerie Meyer, Costumes Chair

Julie Lugo Cerra, Historic Sites Chair

Jeanne Conklin, Membership Chair

Andrew Weissman, Government Liaison

Michael Laase, Parliamentarian

Kevin Lachoff, Photographer

Mark Morris, Media Archives

INTERNS

Abigail Cregor, Madisen Matsuura

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

In Memoriam

Martha (Marti) Diviak
former Society President (1988-90)

Welcome Our New Members

Scott Dicks
Peggy and Laila Kharraz

RECENT EVENTS

January 19 General Meeting and Program



Culver City High Schoolers (and Society interns!) Madisen Matsuura (right) and Abigail Cregor (left) created these pages in our winged unit to learn easy phrases in Tongva. (Hope Parrish)

2nd Annual Culver City Book Festival



Parliamentarian Michael Laase (left) and intern Madisen at our table for the Book Festival, organized by Vagabond Books and hosted at the Wende Museum. (Hope Parrish)

Chamber 100th Event



President Hope Parrish received the Legacy of Service award on behalf of the Historical Society from Colin Diaz, President and CEO of the Culver City Chamber. (Culver City Chamber of Commerce)

Sunday ARC Visitors

Former Society President Cathy Zermeno (front, center) stopped by the Archives to visit, with intern Abigail (standing) and Lydia Spiegelman. (Hope Parrish)



Hope put together the photos and items on display, covering 100 years of Chamber history for the Installation Gala. (Culver City Chamber of Commerce)



Our new Costumes Chair Valerie Meyer and intern Abigail put the finishing touches on a costume change-out in the Archives and Resource Center. (Hope Parrish)

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

We make it convenient for you to renew your membership, which was due in January 2022. You can do this on our website at CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/membership. There, you will be able to pay instantly with your credit card and save a stamp! 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. Rates for individual and family levels increased beginning January 2022.

Your continued support is always greatly appreciated.



P.O. Box 1356
Culver City, CA 90232

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
(310) 253-6941

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 19 (note new date) – General Meeting and Program

Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

May – Historic Preservation Month

July 20 – General Meeting and Program

Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

ARC OPEN DATES

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1–3PM

April 3 and closed for Easter (April 17), May 1 and 15,
June 5 and closed for Father's Day (June 19)



Support (at no extra cost to you!)



We depend on your membership and donations to keep the archives running. You can also build on your support in two small ways that don't cost extra. If you are a Ralphs shopper and have an online account you can designate the Culver City Historical Society as your "Community Contribution." If you are an Amazon shopper, go to smile.amazon.com and login to your account. Under "Your Account," go to "AmazonSmile." From there, you can designate Culver City Historical Society as your charity. Every dollar counts! Both programs are a great way to help your Society without any extra cost to you.

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.

Benefactor

The Culver Studios Ryan Smith (310) 473-8900

Supporting Corporate and Non Profit Sponsors

Culver City Exchange Club Dr. Bob Montgomery (310) 499-4840

History For Hire Pam and Jim Elyea (818) 765-7767

Sony Pictures Entertainment Kristin Cavanaugh (310) 244-5368

Supporting Business Members

11 of Twelve James Finn (917) 951-6699

Appletree Music LLC Amy Loftus Panchansky (615) 268-8050

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

Culver City Neighbors Chiqueeta Jameson (310) 801-3445

Freeman Properties Stuart Freeman (310) 839-7593

George Petrelli Famous Steaks Marie Petrelli (310) 902-5899

Göran Eriksson / Techtrans Göran Eriksson (310) 841-2901

Ken Harada, D.D.S. Ken Harada (310) 837-5121

Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary..... Lori Larcara (818) 424-1619

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

RE/MAX Estate Properties Michele Walman (310) 704-0811

Santa Maria BBQ Jim Rodrigues (310) 559-5709

SendOutCards Richard A. Marcus (310) 397-4696

Sorrento Italian Market Albert Vera (310) 391-7654

Tower Insurance Associates Janice Beighey (310) 837-6101

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Jeff Cooper (310) 606-9479

The Wende Museum Justin Jampol (310) 216-1600

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 (\$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

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