



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No.3
Summer 2019

Getting Ready to Mark History!

By Julie Lugo Cerra

I admit I am feeling a little nostalgic! I remember a call from my mom, shortly after my dad, Captain Charles Reyes Lugo, retired from CCPD in 1979. After reading about the formation of a Culver City Historical Society, she realized that his Lugo family history could be a benefit to keeping him active with community service. I promised to take him to the first meeting of our Historical Society at the home of Fire Chief John Kearney and his wife Mildred.



City Hall, pictured in the 1950s. (Historic Site No.1)

Soon after that first meeting, Dad became our first Historic Sites Chair and the Society began a program of marking historic sites at least 50 years old. We celebrated marking our first site in 1981, the 1928 City Hall (where City Hall stands today), ten years prior to the adoption of our city's Historic Preservation Ordinance. In the 1980s, the City of Culver City acted to fund a survey of historic structures. A Historic Preservation Advisory Committee formed and the final document, completed by 30th Street Architects, was adopted by our City Council in 1991. A Cultural Affairs Commission was appointed by the council in 2000, which folded Historic Preservation and Art in Public Places together. In 2004, oval city plaques were ordered and installed on historic structures designated by the city as "Landmark" or "Significant." The National Register has also recognized structures in our city.

Our historic plaques are traditionally bronze, mounted in concrete or affixed to the structure. The Society fundraising pays for these narrative markers. I encourage you to visit our website – culvercityhistoricalsociety.org/historic-sites – then go outside and explore the 13 sites we have marked. We are thrilled to mark our 14th site later this year, **The Rollerdrome**. We will also be mounting an exhibit in the Culver City Historical Society Archives to celebrate and share items, such as an original pair of roller skates. Announcements will go out soon! Join the fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 17, 2019 – General Meeting and Program The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop Veterans Memorial Building (Room TBA), 7PM

The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop, a book by Richard M. Isackes and Karen L. Maness, is a large format book that includes sumptuous photos of movie backdrops, and the stories of the scenic artists that produced them.

As film historian Leonard Maltin wrote, the book "reveals a facet of moviemaking that even savvy film buffs may not know about ... You will be amazed at the number of familiar scenes from films as varied as *The Wizard of Oz*, *North by Northwest*, and *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* that make use of these canvases... This is truly an eye-opening book and a valuable contribution to our understanding of how movies are created."

Join us as Karen Maness gives a presentation on *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*.

Ms. Maness collaborated in the 2017 Art Directors Guild Archives Backdrop Recovery Project, which recovered over 200 MGM backdrops from Hollywood's golden age of film for display and study. She is a professor of scenic art, figurative painting, and practical special effects. A limited number of books will be available for purchase (\$75), and Ms. Maness will be available for a book signing after the program. The public is invited to this free program.

Please check our website or Facebook page for updated information.



(Karen Maness)

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hope M. Parrish



Summer Greetings to our newest members and to our loyal lifetime and annual members who support us each year! We had a busy Spring!

In April, the Historical Society began work on a new collaboration with Culver City High School. We joined the Wende Museum and other local business at the Student Career Day. Our plan is to begin a volunteer internship program with our local students who have a desire to learn about Culver City history and preservation. We have lots

of interest, which is exciting!

I hope everyone enjoyed the April General Meeting and Program, "From Barney Fife to Beats: Culver City's 40 Acres Backlot." Standing room only, we were taken back in time with Steve Bingen and Mark Wanamaker.

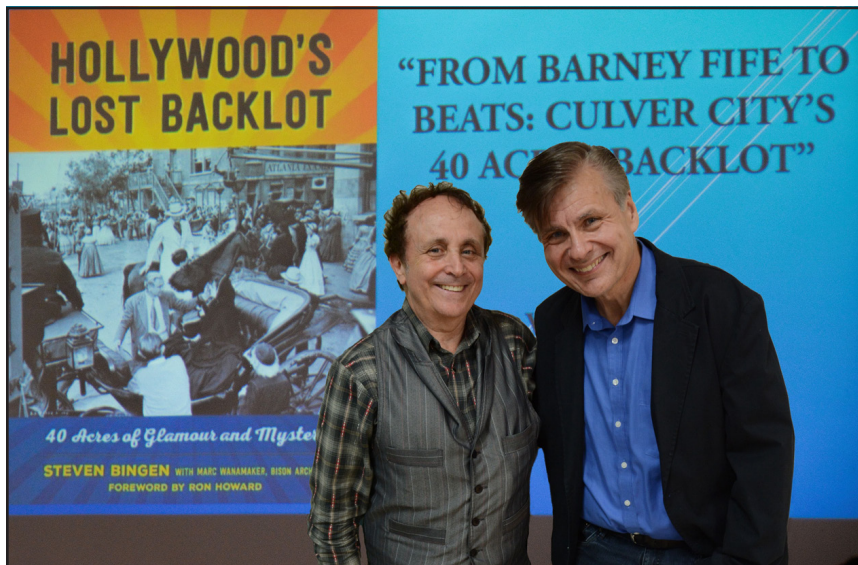
Steve Newton has our thanks for the time and care he put into a wonderful display of Culver City Car Club memorabilia at the ARC. Our visitors enjoyed it while we opened during the Exchange Club Car Show.

Special thanks to the Culver City Council for recognizing our work during May's Historic Preservation month. We had a great show of support from our members and volunteers to accept a City proclamation.

Did you "Spring clean" a closet, garage, or attic? Maybe you came across something related to Culver City's historic past, like a photo, business card, menu, or matchbook from a business that is no longer here. Let's see what you got! Your Historical Society can be the new home of your Culver City treasures, preserving and displaying them for future guests to view. Send a photo and brief description of your treasures to info@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org. We want to continue our growth and be a rich source of research for our community.

Mark your calendars for July 17 — another General Meeting and Program not to miss! I look forward to seeing you!

Hope



Marc Wanamaker and Steven Bingen (right) at the April 17 General Meeting and Program.
(Kevin Lachoff)

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.

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STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org

facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety

twitter.com/histofculvrcity

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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

Patricia Bumpas

Welcome Our New Members

John Cohn

Susan Malerstein-Watkins

Culver City Exchange Club

Stephen Ropfogel

Judy and Herb Eisenberg

Kevin Segall

Carol Ann Garrett

Donna Thayer

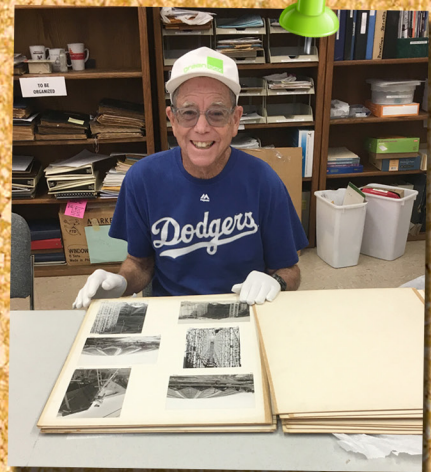
Cliff LeBlanc

Christine Work

What We've Been Up To



President Hope Parrish and Lifetime member Judy Stangler at Culver City High School for Career Fair in April. (Hope Parrish)



John Yant visited the ARC during the May Car Show and revisited his work as a contributor to the Culver City High School photo project, "The Unique Construction of the Robert Frost," from our permanent collection. (Hope Parrish)



Member Steve Newton curated a special exhibit of his car club memorabilia collection in the Archives for the Culver City Car Show. (Denice Renteria)



Archives volunteers digitizing microfilm. (Art Litman)



Mystery solved! We are the custodian of this floral skirt but did not know the movie it was from. Hope Parrish discovered it was worn by Doris Day in the MGM 1966 classic, *The Glass Bottom Boat*. (Hope Parrish)





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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 17 – General Meeting and Program
Room TBA, VMB, 7PM

August 23-25 – Fiesta La Ballona in Vets Park
The ARC will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 12-4PM.

September 15 – Our annual Founders' Day Picnic!
Vets Park, 12-3PM (more info to follow)

September 20 – Happy 102nd, Culver City!

September 21 – Small Press Book Festival
Wende Museum, 11AM - 4:30PM

October 16 – General Meeting and Program
Multipurpose Room, VMB, 7PM

ARC OPEN DATES – 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM
July 7, July 21, Aug. 4, Aug. 18, Sept. 1, Sept. 15, Oct. 6

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 RestaurantLisa Schwab (310) 821-0018
Cavanaugh RealtorsDannie Cavanaugh (310) 837-7161
Culver City Flower ShopMike Eskridge (310) 839-2344
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George Petrelli Famous Steaks Marie Petrelli (310) 902-5899
Goran Eriksson / Techtrans Goran Eriksson (310) 841-2901

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

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