

Culver Historical Highlights

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Fall 2009

"CELEBRATION OF THE MOVIES II" ~ A HIT!

CCHS SALUTES THE CITY'S 92ND ANNIVERSARY + 70 YEARS OF "1939 FILMS"

AN APPRECIATION

LUPE SMITH: FOUNDING MEMBER AND PAST PRESIDENT

We lost a very dear and devoted friend on July 19th when Lupe Smith passed away at the home of her daughter, Lori Cavallo, in Littleton, Colorado.



Lupe was a Founding Member of the Culver City Historical Society and its President in the late 1980s. Among her contributions – besides her wonderful friendship – was the creation of the game, "Culver City Monopoly" and the beginning of our Oral History project which continues on. She also wrote for this newsletter often.

She was very active with the local Tongva/Gabrielino Native Indian groups, helping to commemorate the Kuruvunga Springs on the campus of University High School, as well as a memorial on the hillside at Loyola-Marymount College.

Lupe is survived by her five children: daughter, Lori Cavallo, twin sons, John Lassos and Jerry Lassos, and daughters, Gloria Beverley and Susie Dennis, as well as 12 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Those who would like to may make a donation in Lupe's name to the National Stroke Association (www.stroke.org).

THE REDUX OF THE 1989 CELEBRATION A GREAT SUCCESS!

With the first strains of the title theme from *Gone With The Wind*, the guests at the CC Historical Society's "Celebration of the Movies II," were treated to the wonderful music of the jazz group, the Music Masters, who were positioned on the porch of the famous studio "mansion."

After a great rendition of "Over the Rainbow" from the *Wizard of Oz*, the afternoon was filled with favorite songs from the 1930s and '40s.

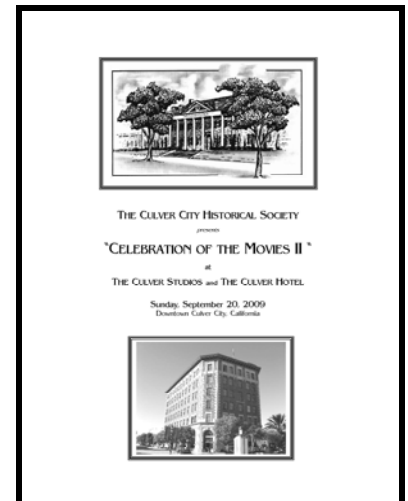
THE CULVER STUDIOS ~ THE IDEAL BACKDROP

This provided the perfect backdrop for the historic stroll into the past, highlighting the classic year in film: 1939.

Guests checked-in at The Culver Hotel, starting at 12:30 pm. They then met and mingled on the beautiful lawn of The Culver Studios where several "photo-ops" were set up: fabulous vintage cars from the Screenland A's, along with cameras, props and other film equipment provided by History for Hire. They could even have their picture taken with Clark Gable!

RARE STUDIO TOURS A HIGHLIGHT

The rare opportunity of touring the



The Souvenir Journal – an instant collectible!

historic studio which has no public tour program – and where *Gone With The Wind* and *Citizen Kane*, among so many other classic films were made – was a main attraction of the afternoon.

The tours started at 1:00 pm with three terrific tour guides: film historian Marc Wanamaker of Bison Archives, and John and Margi Bertram, both of whom have worked on the lot and have compiled an extensive history of its various incarnations. (cont'd. on pg. 4)

~ OCTOBER 21ST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: ELECTIONS! ~

Special Guest: Stephen M. Fry will speak on "Music in Culver City"

The Culver City Historical Society's Fall General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue. Please park and enter from the rear of the building, and a brief tour of the CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) will be offered following the meeting. **ELECTIONS**: In September, Parliamentarian Karen Coyle convened the Nominating Committee, Joy Jacobs, (chair), Tami Eskridge and Hope Parrish, which will report to the membership at the October meeting, when elections will take place.

An overview of the "Music in Culver City" will be presented by our guest speaker, Stephen M. Fry, with the title, "Not So Looney Tunes: A Century of Live Musical Entertainment in Culver City." Steve is very knowledgeable in this area (see pg. 7) and, with his wonderful jazz group, the Melody Masters, performed at the September 20th "Celebration of the Movies II" at The Culver Studios.

The public is invited to enjoy the free program and students are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served following the program. For more information, please call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or email us at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Stu Freeman



I hope you were among the many happy "film buffs" who attended the Culver City Historical Society's "Celebration of the Movies II" on Sunday, September 20th – which was also the 92nd Anniversary of Culver City's Incorporation.

It was a great afternoon due to the tremendous amount of time and planning given by so many of our members and friends.

I want to first thank The Culver Studios for allowing us the privilege of having our event at the studio. It was the perfect venue, and their support was invaluable, as was that of the Culver Hotel.

I would also like to thank the Downtown Business Assoc. and all the businesses and individuals who so generously contributed to the success of our event with their financial support, both in donations and special discounts to our guests.

I would further like to thank our Event Chair, Julie Lugo Cerra, and her Committee who worked so hard and were so creative in putting this event together.

One of our goals at the Historical Society is to present quality events and quarterly programs that you can enjoy and also learn about our city's unique history – with the hope that you will want to get more involved with the Society.

Please consider this an invitation to join the CC Historical Society (*go to the back page for a membership application*). We welcome your participation. Many interesting events and activities are being planned right now – be a part of the action!

Sincerely,

Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra



CULVER CITY'S "FIRST PARK"

One of the ways the society preserves history is by marking historic sites. I am pleased to announce that the CCHS Board has approved marking the site of our first park (Victory, now Dr. Paul Carlson Park) as Historic Site #12.

When the research is complete, which should be very soon, we will take our offer to place a bronze marker on the site to the city. That site, located on a portion of Rancho La Ballona, was once a horse racing track, a Speedway (board racing track), and in 1927, it became our first city park.

"92 YEARS YOUNG"

Culver City is now 92.....with such a rich history, often recognized way beyond our city boundaries.

In our Archives we have a beautiful photo of the Irving Thalberg Building, which was opened as the new administration building in 1938 at

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, (now Sony Pictures Studios). Thalberg was often called the "genius head of production" at the studios, and was said to be like a son to studio chief, Louis B. Mayer. Thalberg was married to actress Norma Shearer.

After legendary film producer Thalberg (1899-1936) died, the historic structure was constructed. It has been designated by the city as one of two landmark structures on the studio lot, along with several significant structures.

An event of note: "Irving Thalberg: Creating the Hollywood Studio System" – something to enjoy from September 17-December 13, 2009 at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. AMPAS will have a new exhibition in their 4th floor gallery. Admission is free. The Academy Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5p.m., and weekends, noon to 6 p.m. The address is 8949 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills.

THE WENDE MUSEUM: A TREASURE

One of our amazing but little known local resources is the Wendé Museum and Archive of the Cold War, located on Buckingham Parkway. There will be a special event in keeping with the U. S. commemoration of the 20th

Culver Historical Highlights

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The Culver City Historical Society, founded in 1980, is a non-profit membership organization created for the purpose of collecting, preserving and exhibiting the history of Culver City and its cultural and civic accomplishments.

The CCHS Newsletter is published quarterly.

Editor & Publisher.....Judy Stangler

Contributing Writers..... Julie Lugo Cerra

Marc Wanamaker, Steve Newton

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Cathy Zermeno Immediate Past President

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Steven J. Rose Government Liaison

Louise Coffey-Webb Costumes

Editor's Column

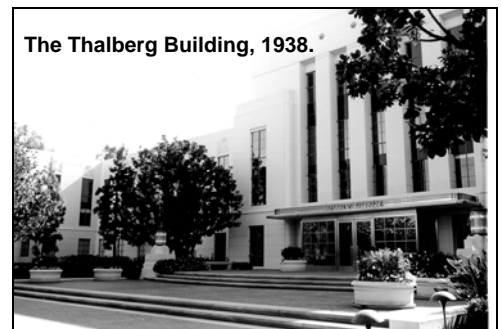
"Celebration of the Movies II" was planned to celebrate the movies made in Culver City, the Heart of Screenland, emphasizing the importance of the movie industry to our city, in the 70th Anniversary year of the classic movies of 1939. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the 92nd Anniversary of Culver City's Incorporation.

Centering in downtown Culver City, with access to The Culver Studios and The Culver Hotel, souvenir IDs admitted guests to both venues and entitled participants to specials offered by local businesses.

It was quite a day and a great accomplishment by all!

Remember, it's YOUR Historical Society—we can't succeed without YOU!

The Thalberg Building, 1938.



Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It will take place on Wilshire Blvd. on Sunday, November 8th. For more information, call 310.216.1600 or visit www.wendemuseum.org.

REEL



CULVER CITY

by Marc Wanamaker

SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL STUDIOS, CULVER CITY

In 1935, the major studios in the Los Angeles area were MGM, Columbia, Paramount, RKO, Warner Bros., United Artists and Universal. Along with the majors there were many small studios producing either for the major companies or for the independent market.

SELZNICK GATHERS HIS BACKERS

David O. Selznick had already an impressive track record of being a film producer, first working for his father, Louis Selznick, and later, at RKO and at MGM.

In May of 1935, United Artists wanted to sign Selznick to a distribution deal as an independent company. At this time, Selznick already had investment money in hand from his friends, Irving and Norma Thalberg, and his agent brother Myron. He then accepted an offer from financier John Hay Whitney and his family and friends, as well as offers from New York bankers Robert and Arthur Lehman – and taxicab magnate John Hertz.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Attilio Giannini, the younger brother of the founder of the Bank of America and a member of Selznick Board of Directors, took over as president of United Artists giving David's company a major distributor and further financing if necessary. This completed his financial package and opened the door for the creation of Selznick International Pictures.

By October of 1935, Selznick was organizing his company and preparing a portfolio of projects for his initial releases through United Artists. A roster of production personnel was acquired from MGM and Paramount where David had worked. The new company began to lease the old RKO/Pathé Studios in Culver City because David knew the lot very well during his time as a producer for RKO.

FIRST FILM BASED ON CLASSIC NOVEL

It was decided that the first Selznick production would be *Little Lord Fauntleroy* with MGM star, Freddie Bartholomew, as the lead. The MGM contract players were loaned by David's father-in-law, the head of MGM, Louis B. Mayer.

In February of 1936, it was announced that the second release for the company would be a Technicolor-produced production of *The Garden of Allah* starring Marlene Dietrich. After the film was completed, Selznick began the logistics of setting up a film studio that would be able to adapt itself to his working habits. Special departments were created that would work closely with the head office and the production teams.

By November of 1936, it was announced that Selznick International would make twelve pictures in the coming year, four of them in Technicolor. This new, enlarged schedule would require more studio space than what the company had been leasing on the RKO-Pathé lot. This led to arrangements to take over the entire lot, rename it *Selznick International Studios*, and operate the entire plant as a rental facility while still dominating the studio's facilities for their own productions.

Selznick International Studios, 9334 W. Washington Blvd. Culver City in 1936.



PRODUCTION SCHEDULE ADVANCES

The next production was *A Star Is Born* starring Janet Gaynor. Shot in Technicolor, the production began on October 31st and was released in 1937. *A Star Is Born* was the first picture to use the Selznick International trademark which was a Technicolor view of the original Thomas Ince administration building on Washington Boulevard, with the Selznick sign adjacent to it. This proved to be a dignified trademark that Selznick was pleased with and identified a Selznick picture with that of an historical Culver City landmark.

By March of 1937, scenes were being shot for the next Selznick production, *The Prisoner of Zenda*. Starring Ronald Colman, Madeleine Carroll and Douglas Fairbanks Jr., the film became a box-office success.

On May 20, 1936, the first detailed synopsis of *Gone With The Wind* was reviewed by Selznick along with a copy of the book.

At the end of 1937, another lavish production was begun: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* which was shot at the RKO/Pathé Studio and its "40-acre" backlot, as well as the Paramount Ranch in Agoura. Following the success of *Tom Sawyer*, there was a succession of such films produced at the Selznick studios including *Nothing Sacred*, *The Young in Heart*, *Intermezzo* with Ingrid Bergman, *Made For Each other* with Carole Lombard, *Gone With The Wind*, *Rebecca* with Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier, *Since You Went Away*, *Spellbound*, *Duel in the Sun* with Gregory Peck, *The Paradine Case* with Charles Laughton, *Portrait of Jennie* with Jennifer Jones, and *A Farewell To Arms* with Rock Hudson.

STUDIO BECOMES DESILU

By 1962, the Selznick Studio was being used by other production companies and renamed the Desilu Culver Studios which had been purchased by Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in 1957. Selznick's last production at his beloved studio was *Tender Is the Night* with his wife, actress Jennifer Jones. At this time Selznick had been headquartered in Culver City for twenty-seven years.



David O. Selznick walking through the recently prepared back lot sets for *Gone With The Wind* on the famed 40-acre back lot in 1939

David O. Selznick died on June 22, 1965 and left a legacy of classic films still enjoyed by 21st Century audiences. ###

CCHS "LOGO" CONTEST

Win a Prize!

The CC Historical Society needs its own uniquely Culver City "history" logo – and we need your creative ideas to come up with the perfect logo for all Society publications, correspondence, etc.

Please email your drawings, stylings, etc. no later than January 8, 2010 to: info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org or fax to: 310.253.6942. Winner and prize will be announced at the January 20, 2010 General Meeting!

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ ~ ~

"CELEBRATION OF THE MOVIES II". . . .

"Redux" (cont'd.)

Included on the tour was a stop in Bldg. P to view the extraordinary Fred Parrish Collection exhibit of still photos from *Gone With The Wind*.

SPECIAL GUESTS

We were very fortunate to have several special guests join us:

- **Patrick Curtis** who played "Baby Beau Wilkes" in *Gone With The Wind* (and who was also with us in 1989);
- Legendary Oscar-winning child actress **Margaret O'Brien** (who practically grew up in Culver City!);
- **Margaret Kerry**, who appeared in the Hal Roach *Our Gang Comedies* and who was the reference model for "Tinker Bell" in Disney's classic cartoon, *Peter Pan*;
- **Dorothy Barrett**, Miss Culver City 1937, acted as the manicurist to the Cowardly Lion in the *Wizard of Oz*, and one of Scarlett's cousins in GWTW, and is now actively directing a performing arts group.
- Our own **Martha Sigall** whose notable animation career has been honored with many awards, and who donated an animation cel for the raffle.

Also, to have Culver City Mayor Andrew Weissman welcome the guests, along with Councilman Gary Silbiger and our new City Manager Mark Scott enjoying the afternoon with friends and neighbors made it that much more fun!

Former CC Mayor Jozelle Smith again performed the emceeing duties (as she did in 1989) of the "Rhett Butler" and "Scarlett O'Hara" look-alike contests, aided by our CCHS Costumes Chair, Louise Coffey-Webb.

The winners: Doug Newton walked off with the "Rhett Butler" award and the "Scarlett O'Hara" award was shared by Madison Lea Goodwin and Anna Gavin. We had some mighty fine-looking contestants!

The Auction and Raffle items were eagerly sought after. After a couple more tours (we soon learned to be more aware of the sun/shade factor for our tour line-ups!), the day came to a happy and pleasing close....



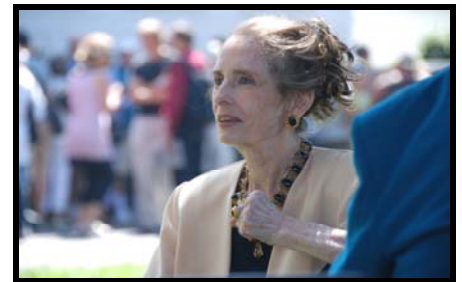
Former CC Mayor Jozelle Smith and CCHS Costume Chair Louise Coffey-Webb (L-R at top of steps) announcing winners of the "Costume Look-Alikes." (Chuck Hand photo)



"Bewitching" Check-in table in the hotel – Jeanne Conklin & Tami Eskridge presiding. (Lachoff photo)



Above: Miss Culver City of 1937, Dorothy Barrett who, as a young actress, worked in both the *Wizard of Oz* and *Gone With the Wind*. (Lachoff photo)



Below: Famed actress Margaret O'Brien delighted the folks with stories of her work on the MGM lots. (Lachoff photo)



(L) History for Hire and the Screenland A's set up wonderful photo-ops – vintage cars and Clark Gable! (Lachoff photo)

(R) Patrick Curtis and Margaret "Tinker Bell" Kerry helped judge the look-alike contest. (Lachoff photo)



~ ~ ~ CELEBRATING OUR 29TH YEAR !"

..... What a Blast !!!

Event Chair Julie Lugo Cerra has a special thanks to her committee and everyone that worked so hard to make "Celebration of the Movies II" the great success it turned out to be:

We owe a debt of gratitude to The Culver Studios for letting us show off their wonderful movie lot. A gem in the Heart of Screenland, it holds a very special place in the hearts of locals who grew up here and those who live here today. This was a unique opportunity for many who would never have set foot on this historic lot. And the roll-out of the window from GWTW – what an amazing feat/treat!

As someone said, the landmark Culver Hotel was the perfect "Check-In" place – especially with our "witchy" greeters! We really appreciate the Screenland A's who are a part of us – and we never want to take you for granted.

Our guests traveled from Michigan, the Carolinas, Oregon, and many former residents used this as an opportunity to come back to Culver City, sit on a blanket, visit friends, enjoy the music and relax. We were glad to see everyone and want to thank them for their support.

Clearly, History for Hire, The Hand Prop Room, the Parrish touch, and Bertram expertise gave us very special photo-ops, and even Selznick mint for juleps later Rodney Gottlieb's loan of the Fred Parrish GWTW stills just added to this unique event. And although they did not make it into the book, donations from The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, (thanks, Randy Haberkamp), and Santa Maria Bar-B-Q made generous contributions.

Our special guests, Margaret O'Brien, Patrick Curtis Dorothy Barrett, Margaret Kerry (Tinker Bell), and our own Martha Sigall, brought the entertainment industry to cheery life. The Melody Masters filled the air with cheery music, and those who saw the Ince Studio tour really enjoyed it.

Who knew that founding member Joy Jacobs, our Publicity Chair, would have our Society on FaceBook and Twitter, not to mention the usual send-to operations. Judy Stangler's expertise transformed information and photos into a wonderful souvenir program. Hope Parrish jumped in and helped in every direction, and President Stu Freeman was up to even the most menial chores – an extraordinary group of workers, all.

Thanks to Cathy Zermeno, Fred Yglesias, Martha and Sol Sigall, Claire Lockhart, Douglas Newton, Jeanne Conklin, Tami Eskridge, Karen (who-can-sell-anything) Coyle, Lydia Spiegelman, Steve Rose, Louise Coffey-Webb, Jozelle Smith, Steve Fry, Pat Clapp, Kevin Lachoff, Dennis and Willy Parrish, John and Margi Bertram, Carlos and Cathy Lugo, Steve Newton, Marc Wanamaker, Chuck Eskridge, Maureen Lee Kluck, Greta Dean, Michelle Souza, and Lucklle "Luc" OuYang, and Lance Watsky.

In the end, this means that we fortified our treasury to enable the Society continue with our historic preservation work, a noble cause, and an all-volunteer effort. Thank you all!

Look for more photos in the next issue!

~ Julie



The Tour Line



(L-R) Ron Crawford, Mary Lou Brown-Schatan, Danny Bloom, Judy Bloom, Barbara Hand and Chuck Hand (Hand photo)



Film historian Marc Wanamaker (in hat) picking up one of his tours. (Lachoff photo)



John Bertram energetically led tours all afternoon.... (Lachoff photo)



Tour guide Margi Bertram (L) explains to Carlos Lugo the significance of the window from GWTW which hasn't been shown in 40 years! (Cerra photo)

Melody Masters: Jan Abell, vocals and percussion; Jerry Caris, baritone sax and clarinet; Steve Fry, piano; John Melville, drums; Craig Peterson, trumpet; Mary Ann Sereth, bass; Eddie Weiss, trombone. (Steve Fry photo)



L-R: CCHS Newsletter Editor Judy Stangler, Julie Lugo Cerra (CC City Historian), CCHS President Stu Freeman, and Randy Haberkamp, Program Coordinator of Educational & Special Projects for the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. (Chuck Hand photo)



CCHS Member Patt Clapp won the "80 Years of Oscar" coffee table book. (Hand photo)

NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR...

by Louise Coffey-Webb
Costume Committee Chair

FIESTA TIME AGAIN!

If you have been by the ARC (Archive Resource Center) lately, you will have noticed a new mannequin in the central display area. She is wearing another of our "Princess" costumes from the Fiesta La Ballona, circa 1951.

The label inside states "Rosalie Utterback Original." Rosalie was former Chair of the Fashion Design Department at Woodbury University (where I now am.) She was at Woodbury for 30 years, from 1966 through 1996. Before that, she had her own dressmaking business, and this costume is obviously from that period.

If any of you readers have photographs of Fiesta costumes from the 1950s, it would be great fun to see if they feature one of Rosalie's dresses! Our dress features a pretty fitted lace bodice, with an attached four-tiered floor-length skirt in faille.

In front of the mannequin is a trophy which was given to Elsie Mohler in 1962. The engraving reads "Fiesta La Ballona, Culver City Chamber of Commerce, The Chamber of President's Award."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

This Fall, work will continue on finishing up the cataloguing of the MGM Costume Collection at the ARC. The final step in this process is converting all the information onto our new computer database system.

My hope is that visitors will be able to sit at a computer in the Center and view the inventory on a monitor, complete with photos – thus making the entire collection available, rather than waiting for each costume to be individually displayed.

Stay tuned for a progress report!

~ LC-W



Above: A "Rosalie Utterback Original."

Below: The "Fiesta La Ballona" trophy given in 1962 by the Culver City Chamber of Commerce as the "President's Award."



SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT WEB MUSEUM

Newly Redesigned!

SPE has launched its newly redesigned one-of-a-kind, interactive museum – an exciting, behind-the-scenes look at the studio's celebrated past and the innovative techniques used today. Browse favorite film clips and photos, watch digital effects bring Spider-Man™ to life, observe how classic films are restored and learn more about SPE's home, Culver City. Visit: <http://www.sonypicturesmuseum.com>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- OCT. 17:** LA ARCHIVES BAZAAR
- OCT. 21:** CCHS FALL
GENERAL MEETING
& ELECTIONS
- Nov. 8:** Wende Museum:
20th Anniversary of the
Fall of the Berlin Wall
- JAN. 20, 2010:** CCHS WINTER
GENERAL MEETING
& INSTALLATION

For more information on any of these events, please contact the CCHS:
info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
or Tel: 310.253.6941.

2009 ARC Volunteer Dates 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm

Call to confirm dates: 310.253.6941

Oct. 3	Oct. 17	Oct. 31
Nov. 14	Nov. 28	Dec. 12

THANK YOU!

The Culver City Historical Society
would like to thank the following:

► **David Pelayo**, who is helping us identify MGM photos by production number.

► Thanks to all the volunteers who represented the Society at the CC Chamber EXPO at Media Park on June 24th.

... and congratulate CCHS members:

► **Martha Sigall**, for the Academy's acknowledgement of her work on the 1939 Tex Avery cartoon screened on June 22nd.

► **Bob Hattem**, who has written more about his recollections in LA in a new publication, "Bob Hattem's Facts and Fantasy."

► **Maxine Mytar**, who has published a new book, "MORE STUFF" – 324 pages of more true-life stories spanning a lifetime of living mostly in Culver City. Copies are available at her cost of \$11. Call: 310 838-7591 to order.

DO SOMETHING HISTORIC!

Take an active role in the Culver City Historical Society: Become a CCHS Docent, conduct a downtown walking tour, be a "Living History" presenter. If you're good at organizing or filing, help at the ARC.

BECOME A CCHS VOLUNTEER!

FALL GENERAL MEETING:

At the October 21st Fall CCHS General Meeting, we will have the pleasure of hosting **Stephen M. Fry** who will speak on "Not So Looney Tunes: A Century of Live Musical Entertainment in Culver City." This will be a descriptive survey of how music developed in Culver City and its surrounding areas. And Steve Fry knows his way around the world of music!

Steve Fry has lived in Culver City since 1975 with his wife, Frances Talbott-White. In 2001, he retired from UCLA, where he served as head of the Music Library and as a music reference and collection development librarian. He has contributed articles for many journals, encyclopedias and anthologies.

For many years, Steve wrote a column on music for the Culver City News. His writing interests range from film music, women in music, jazz and art music, to music philately and music biography. He is also a pianist who performs in several jazz ensembles and as a solo artist. Steve is currently completing a book on the songs and dances published in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, an 18th Century English periodical.

Steve and Frances raised their sons, John and Kenneth, in Culver City, and were leaders in scouting and school-enrichment programs. They continue to participate in community activities and really enjoy being grandparents!

Be sure to join us on Wednesday, October 21st at the Vets.

Sunshine thoughts go out to our good friends, Lorraine Henderson, Lynda Newton, Paul Pitti and Ursula Vera.

• Thank You for your new membership:

Lifetime Member

Rita Zide of Roll & Rye

Family Member

Alex & Tom Mott & twins Eve & John

Claire Lockhart

David & Pam Mines

(courtesy of Neil Rubenstein)

An ARC Update

by Martha & Sol Sigall
Vice President, Archives

A BUSY SUMMER AT THE ARC!

This past summer, the ARC has been visited by many special people and special groups, beginning with our Annual Picnic & Summer General Meeting. We had a large turnout for the picnic at Vets Park on July 15th, and most of those who attended also came to see our archives.

It was such a pleasure to host a group of students from our sister-city, Kaizuka, Japan, on July 28th. They were joined by host students from Culver City – totaling 23 students in all!

Vicky Mircheff Wells, who headed the 40th Reunion Committee of the Culver City High School class of '69, brought her mother, Zena Mircheff, to see our archives. She also brought a \$75 check, courtesy of the Reunion Committee, which we appreciated so much.

THE CC WOMAN'S CLUB VISITS

The Woman's Club of Culver City held their own picnic in Vets Park on August 10th. Julie Lugo Cerra and Cathy Zermeno joined us to open the archives for these long-time residents to see and enjoy. There were so many favorable comments as well as wonderful shared recollections and memories.

Julie also took Myrna Rivera Cote, Superintendent of Culver City Schools, on a tour of the city which concluded at the ARC. And, on another occasion, she did the same for Gwenis Laura, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services. Our historical Society has a continuing relationship with the Culver City School District, and we hope to have more school students come and avail themselves of the unique history of Culver City.

To help celebrate the Fiesta La Ballona, we displayed some of our memorabilia commemorating past Fiestas, going back as far as 1951. We were so pleased that so many people who attended this year's Fiesta visited the ARC and purchased so many of the items that we have for sale.

We also want to thank Paul Pitti for his generous donation of his collection of dolls based on the classic film, *Gone With The Wind*. These will be on display at the ARC.

And for those of you who were unable to view the Fred Parrish Collection of stills from *Gone With The Wind* at the CCHS "Celebration of the Movies II," the collection will be on view at the ARC through December 13, 2009.

As you know, the ARC is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and by appointment. We look forward to seeing you soon – and, if you have some time to give, we need volunteers to sort and catalog our many treasures.

~ Martha & Sol



L-R: Bob Sigall, Craig Weaver, Marc Brauer and David Paperny visit the ARC during their CC High School's 40th reunion.



Sol Sigall, CCHS co-VP, Archives, shows CCHS members, Maxine Mytar & Marguerite Castro, the historically-decorated umbrellas to during the Fiesta.

CCHS ARCHIVES & RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)

Veterans Memorial Building • 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA

Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm, and by appointment
Free admission. (Enter from parking lot behind the VMB.)

Mail: PO Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428

Tel: 310.253.6941 • Email: info@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org

Become a Member of the Culver City Historical Society Today!

Join others in preserving the history of the "Heart of Screenland" and to support the Culver City Historical Society Archives & Resource Center (ARC).
We can't do it without YOU!

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

_____ Benefactor (\$1000)	_____ Corporate Sponsor (\$500)	_____ Patron Member (\$100)
_____ Organization (\$15)	_____ Business Member (\$50)	_____ Individual Member (\$15)
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