CULVER CITY HISTORY IS A DOOZY!

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING: ELECTIONS!

COLUMN ONE

CCHS ELECTION PROCEDURES

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The Culver City Historical Society’s bylaws require the appointment of a Nominating Committee in July prior to our elections. One must be a board member other than the president, one a committee chair, and the third is appointed from the general membership.

The Parliamentarian calls the Nominating Committee to order, and stays through the committee’s election of a chair. The committee is charged with nominating a member to fill each elected office, (president, vice presidents, secretary and treasurer).

President Stu Freeman appointed the following to serve on the Nominating Committee: Steve Fry, Louise Coffey-Webb and Carol Schwab. The committee met, and their recommendations will be presented at our next meeting (Oct. 19) as required in the bylaws. The election will take place at that time.

The president-elect will then ask members to fill the appointed positions like Parliamentarian and committee chairs, (Historic Sites, for example). cont’d. pg. 4

“A DOOZY OF A DO THAT DID!”

By Joy Jacobs,
Publicity Chair

More than 80 people, many dressed to the nines in 1920s finery, filled the lobby of the Culver Hotel to celebrate Culver City’s 94th Anniversary at the Culver City Historical Society’s “Doozy of a Do” fundraising event on Sunday, September 18, 2011.

Setting the mood with sentimental tunes, Doozy, a band playing sounds of the 1920s and 1930s, kept guests entertained with dancing and listening tunes while waiters traversed the room with bountiful trays of appetizers. (cont’d. pg.5)

The Culver Hotel buzzed with fun and the music of “Doozy.”

~photo by Lachoff

OCTOBER 19TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: ELECTIONS!

Special Program: “History of the Culver City Police Department”

The Culver City Historical Society’s Fall General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19th 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.

This is “Election Night” to choose the Society’s next slate of officers and we ask the entire membership to come out to support and vote for the next Board which will take the reins for the next two years.

Our special guest will be Culver City Police Department Lieutenant Ronald Iizuka who will tell of the history and growth of our city’s Police Department with a PowerPoint presentation. Lt. Iizuka is a veteran of almost 25 years on the force and the CCPD’s current Public Information Officer.

The public is invited to enjoy the free program and students are encouraged to attend. The CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) will be briefly opened following the meeting. Light refreshments will be served following the program (but remember: NO FOOD in the ARC!). For more information, please call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or email us at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org. Also, visit our new website: www.culvercityhistoricalsociety.org for updates.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Stu Freeman

Dear members,

As my second and final term as President of your Culver City Historical Society will conclude at the end of this year, I want to tell you all how proud I’ve been to represent the Society and how much I’ve enjoyed the past four years.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with so many wonderful people who share the passion for the history of our great city. So many unique opportunities have come along with our members and with our many sister historical societies.

I have made a lot of new friends and have also learned a lot about our city that, as a long-term Culver City-ite, I previously didn’t know. I especially owe a debt of gratitude to our City Historian, Julie Lugo Cerra, who always seemed to get me the facts I needed!

Our Archives and Resource Center (ARC) continues to grow in scope and distinction largely due to the help and support of our members and visitors, along with so many wonderful historic donations and contributions. I’m certain that our new Board will work hard to continue to make it a place that you’ll love to visit often and to bring your family and friends to enjoy.

I plan to stay actively involved and I hope that you will too.

All my best wishes – and see you at the ARC!

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Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra

HISTORIC SITE MARKINGS AN IMPORTANT EARLY CCHS FOCUS

When the Culver City Historical Society was incorporated in 1980, we moved quickly to begin our program of marking Historic Sites. Our first marking, the site of the 1928 City Hall, took place in 1981, ten years prior to the adoption of our city’s Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Charles Lugo, my dad, was the Historic Sites Chair. This year, we voted to mark our 13th historic site – The Veterans Memorial Building. We are working with the city for placement, and to set a date for this special event to which our members, city officials and the public are invited.

The Veterans Memorial Building

The Veterans Memorial Building (VMB) was not listed on the original historic survey, completed in the 1980s, due to its “youth.” It was built in 1950, concurrently with the plunge, next door. The VMB is now the required 50+ years of age.

I want to thank our City Manager, John Nachbar, for his support and we look forward to working with him and our new Director of Parks and Recreation, Daniel Hernandez, to recognize this local landmark, which has played an important part in our history. This is another reason we need to update our local historic resources survey – since there are structures that did not qualify in 1989, which would qualify today.

Culture Affairs Commission Re-Evaluates Historic Preservation

The Cultural Affairs Commission, due to Brown Act issues, had to re-evaluate their standing committees. Staff suggested keeping only Public Art as a standing committee, and convene ad hoc committees for other issues like historic preservation.

Photo at right: A young Michele Cerra passes the guest book at the November 21, 1981 marking of the 1928 City Hall site, our first historic marker. Her grandfather, Charles Lugo, behind, was the Historic Sites Chair. The marker, then still unveiled behind, now stands on the corner of Culver and Duquesne. Note Syd Kronenthal in the background.

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Editor’s Column

With a new Board to come in January, 2012, I want to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to our current Board and Committee Chairs for all the help, information and encouragement they have given this newsletter.

I am extremely proud to note that Culver Historical Highlights is highly regarded among our sister historical societies. The quality of events and diligence to historic preservation that the Culver City Historical Society as presented for more than 30 years demonstrates how important and valued we are not only in Culver City, but in many distant locales.

I know the new slate of CCHS officers will continue this special legacy.

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

After a thorough discussion at their September meeting, I am pleased to report that the commission voted (3-2 ) to keep Public Art and Historic Preservation sub-committees. I hope we can work with the sub-committee members, Michelle Bernardin and Marilyn Musicant and staff, Christine Byers, to move historic preservation back to the forefront.

Historic Anniversaries: The Chamber of Commerce turned 90 in August. This year, Petrelli’s celebrates its 80th anniversary!
CULVER CITY: “THE HEART OF SCREENLAND” FOREVER REMEMBERED ON FILM

Since the founding of the City of Culver City, the motion picture industry played an important role in the economic well-being of the town. With the opening of the first studios came the use of the city streets and buildings by the film companies as a background for their films.

“THE GLASS BULLET”

When the Ince/Triangle studio opened in 1915, the first studio in Culver City, a film was made using the new studio as a background for a murder mystery entitled The Glass Bullet. Characters in the film were seen climbing “Washington Row” – the long building adjacent to the front entrance colonnade on Washington Boulevard. The point-of-view of the character when he reached the roof showed a panoramic view of Culver City, most likely the earliest surviving footage of the town in 1916.

With the coming of other studios in and around Venice, Washington and Culver Boulevards, there were many film companies using Culver City, Palms and surrounding areas for location filmmaking purposes. Major landmarks were used along with the Pacific Electric as backgrounds.

HAL ROACH USED THE CITY FREQUENTLY

The Hal Roach Studios which opened in 1920 on Washington Boulevard at what is now National Boulevard, used Culver City as a film location frequently. In the accompanying photograph we see the legendary comic Laurel and Hardy on location at the intersection of Main Street just north of the intersection of Culver Boulevard during the making of Leave ‘Em Laughing in 1927.

Main Street with its recognizable stores was used for over eighty years by various film companies. Many of the same buildings seen in this photograph exist to this day and are still being used by film companies as a backdrop.

The Hal Roach Productions used the Culver City Hall, the Culver Hotel, the fronts of several of the Culver City studios, the Pacific Electric Railway stations and the streets of Culver City in general.

MGM USED CULVER CENTER AMONG MANY SITES

When MGM Studios ruled filmmaking in the town, film locations expanded throughout the City of Los Angeles, but Culver City was still used when convenient.

Throughout the 1940s into the 1990s, Culver City has always been a choice of filmmakers as a location background. When the newly built Culver Center shopping district opened in 1961, MGM Studios used it for a political drama entitled, Ada starring Susan Hayward.

THE CITY’S RICH IN DIVERSE AREAS

Culver City’s location history is rich in diversity due to its various backgrounds that film companies needed to represent small towns as well as industrial complexes, and 1930s-50s residential neighborhoods, etc.

Many films still exist that show Culver City and its development, covering the 96 years of the motion picture industry being located in the town. This tradition continues today with television shows and feature films still coming to Culver City to shoot on location in and around the existing historic studios that continue to be landmarks in “Culver City: The Heart of Screenland.”

[Editor’s Note: Movie Studios of Culver City is a wonderful new edition to the history of our City as well as to film history. Co-authored by Marc Wanamaker and Julie Lugo Cerra, it has gotten rave reviews from many film critics including the notable Leonard Maltin. Be sure to add it to your library!]

Laurel & Hardy “Stand-up”

We were delighted that Bill and Madelyn Hahn arranged for the “stand-up cut-out” of Laurel and Hardy for us to display in the ARC for the annual CCHS picnic. It was originally on loan for the Chamber of Commerce’s 90th celebration. (More about this donation later.)

Below L-R: CC Mayor O’Leary and his wife Susan, Chris Wilde (grandson of City Founder Harry Culver), & CCHS Pres., Stu Freeman with “Laurel & Hardy” at the ARC.

~3 ~
**CCHS Annual Picnic: Great Food and Great Turnout!**

*By Steve Fry, VP Programs*

What a wonderful picnic we had! The annual picnic is one of the Society’s most joyous occasions, and always draws a large crowd of our supporters as well as “foodies.” The ambiance was wonderful, the food was terrific, the band was delightful, the gifts great and the camaraderie was splendid.

I want to thank everyone who did so much work at the event and behind the scenes to make it happen and to make it so much fun.

And many thanks, too, to Jim Rodriguez, owner of the Santa Maria BBQ for another catering success. I heard nothing but comments praising his food and service: “Congratulations on a perfect evening;” “The picnic was one of the best, the food was so good;” “The music was lively – it made such a great time for all!”

The Society thanks everyone who came out and made the 2011 Annual Picnic the best ever!

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**Welcome New CCHS Members**

- Leslie Andrew
- Nancy Goldberg
- Andy Makishima
- Brandon Ross
- Sharon Shore
- David Warshaw
- Chris Wilde
- Claudette Woodworth

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**CCHS members, good friends, city officials and guests all mingled for a happy day of eating and neighborly connecting showing how special Culver City is!**

~ Photos by Kevin Lachoff

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**“Elections” (cont’d)**

Please come to the October meeting to enjoy the program, but also, this month to exercise your voting rights. If you would like to become active on a particular committee, make your wishes known to our new president!
“A Doozy of a Do” (cont’d)

One of the highlights of the event was the raffle and auction conducted by former Culver City Mayors Jozelle Smith and Andy Weissman – who performed their duties mimicking characters from Glee. A “Tom and Jerry” cartoon cel created by CCHS member and acclaimed animator Martha Sigall, and an original speaker from the Studio Drive-In were just two of the many items that brought a rally of bids to help benefit the CCHS.

Among the guests were Mayor Micheal O’Leary; Vice Mayor Scott Malsin; Councilmembers Jeffrey Cooper and Andy Weissman; City Manager John Nachbar; former mayors Gary Silbiger, Jozelle Smith, Paul Jacobs and Steve Rose; and City Attorney Carol Schwab; along with Chamber Chair-Elect Goran Eriksson (the photos tell so much!).

Douglas Newton, general manager of the Culver Hotel, who also serves as Vice President, Ways & Means for the CCHS, recently renovated the hotel with Art Deco furnishings, creating an ambiance that made guests feel as if Jay Gatsby would walk through the door at any minute!

All proceeds from this event will benefit the CCHS’ Museum/Archive and Resource Center (ARC) and support its mission in the community. There is no admission charge for visitors to the ARC, which is located at the back of the Veterans Memorial Building at 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City and open on the first and third Saturday of each month from 1-3 p.m.

What a “Doozy of a Do” it was! With former CC Mayors Jozelle Smith and Andy Weisman handling the auction in great style (at right), city officials and friends danced and ate and tried their luck at wonderful auction and raffle gifts!

(Clockwise) City Manager John Nachbar chats with Mayor O’Leary; CCHS member Renato Romano, Carol Schwab & Stu Freeman admiring Carol’s costume; Judy Stangler & Hope Parrish manning the raffle table; Scott Malsin, Goran Eriksson & Steve Rose just enjoying themselves; Doug Newton and visiting friend; and Louise Coffee-Web in a stunning ensemble.
NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR . . .

by Louise Coffey-Webb
Costume Committee Chair

A SUMMER THAT FLEW BY!

The summer has whipped by so quickly and with it, a number of changes.

First, I want to let you know that my term as Costume Chair is at its limit and I will be passing the reins on to someone else in January, 2012.

Someone I hope will continue her interest in this area is a new member that has helped me in so many ways and is quite extraordinary – and I am delighted to introduce Sharon Shore to the Culver City Historical Society “family!”

Here’s a little background information on Sharon:

● First, Sharon is a private textile conservator who moved her business to Culver City in 1996 (interestingly, the same year that I moved to Culver City!) and her studio, CARING FOR TEXTILES is located on Overland Ave. opposite the Municipal Plunge.

● Sharon serves both the private collector and museums, statewide and nationally. Her projects are many and varied, from eighteenth century tapestries to Adrian-designed movie costumes.

We are very lucky to have her on board.

There will be a new costume display by the October program. However, I will not be at the meeting because I will be in England visiting my family. I cannot believe it has been four years since I last went to England and celebrated my mother’s 80th birthday!

Recently, both Sharon and I met with Carol Ball, a CCHS member who has kindly decided to donate some costumes to our Society that she purchased at the famous MGM auction in 1970, which she clearly remembers attending with her mother, Barbara. We are very excited about this acquisition. The highlight of the donation is a costume worn by actress Marjorie Main in The Harvey Girls. Maybe it will be the part of the next display.

I have enjoyed sharing costume news with you over the past few years, and I wish you a wonderful Autumn.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

~ LC-W

On September 14”, I gave a lecture to the Costume Council at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Entitled Peacocks: Their Influence on Fashion, here I am chatting with the audience beforehand, wearing a peacock feather design outfit.

A Reminder: JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

by Lydia Spiegelman
Membership Chair

January is Membership Renewal Month – and with the many new and exciting things coming up, being a member of the Culver City Historical Society is more important and rewarding than ever.

Your membership dues support the Society’s diverse efforts to keep Culver City’s wonderful history alive for future generations, as well as preserving memorabilia and maintaining our Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

So please send in your membership renewal and consider becoming a Patron, a Lifetime Member, a Corporate Sponsor or a Benefactor. And, remember, a CC Historical Society membership makes a wonderful gift – especially for Culverites in distant areas! (see form on pg.8)
PROFILE:

CULVER CITY POLICE DEPT.

Culver City Police Department Lieutenant Ronald lizuka will describe the history and growth of our city's Police Department at the Historical Society's next meeting, October 19 (see pg. 1). Lt. lizuka is a veteran of almost 25 years on the force and the Department's current Public Information Officer.

The Culver City Police Department, according to the city’s official website, is a “full service law enforcement agency consisting of 117 men and women dedicated to providing the highest level of police service to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Culver City. Led by Chief Don Pedersen, the Culver City Police Department continues to help make Culver City one of the safest cities in California.”

In 1917, the year the Culver City was incorporated, the City Trustees appointed Frank W. Bradley City Marshall, then provided for police protection of the city by the Sheriff's Department, and also arranged to use the County Jail for prisoners. Over the next several decades many provisions for Culver City’s police protection and management were arranged. Then Ted Cooke was appointed police Chief in 1976, bringing the city into the modern world of police work and management. Retiring in 2003 at the age of 71, Chief Cooke was the longest-serving police chief in California.

Some highlights of the Department include a Mounted Reserve Posse, established in 1948, and the reality police show “Nightwatch,” established by Sergeant Ron Perkins and media man Donn Reed as a radio and later a TV show.

Two of today's most publicly important police officers are Chief Don Pedersen, who was appointed in 2006, and Lt. lizuka, the long-time Public Information Officer. According to former PIO Lt. Dave Tankenson, “The PIOs handle the news media and provide them with information.” Lt. Tankenson handled Robert Downey, Jr.’s 2001 arrest in Culver City as the PIO, providing close to 38 hours of nonstop interviews with the media and the public. Referring to his job, he said, “You can't just stick anybody out there. You need someone who can think on their feet.”

An ARC Update …..

by Winston Gieseke
Vice President, Museum/ARC

ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW AT THE ARC

Whether it's a free screening of a movie filmed in Culver City or a new display of pieces from our from our collection of priceless Fiesta costumes and fabulous wardrobe from the MGM vaults, there’s always something to see at the Archives & Resource Center (ARC).

WE’VE HOSTED A VARIETY OF VISITORS

This summer the Society had the privilege of hosting a number of groups at the ARC, such as the ladies from the local "Red Hats," who integrated us into their picnic event at Vet's Park in June. Many of the women are active in our Culver City Woman's Club and CCHS members.

The final weekend of August brought a great many visitors during the annual Fiesta La Ballona (the 60th anniversary of the first one!), during which the ARC showcased an original Fiesta "princess" dress from the early 1950s as well as a display case filled with early Fiesta memorabilia. There was a representative sample of buttons, badges, t-shirts, trophies, awards, and other memorabilia.

There was also the Beta Sigma Phi tour of the ARC. The ladies came from Riverside on August 10 and were treated to a tour of the ARC by Stu Freeman and Julie Lugo Cerra, then went on to lunch at the historic Culver Hotel before embarking on a tour of Sony Pictures.

Our Culver City Sister City Committee offers a student exchange program with our four sister cities, which was great fun in August.

And as you know, our displays are made possible in part by donations from people like you. If you have anything of historical significance that you’d like to donate to the Society, please bring them to the ARC during open hours, which are the first and third Saturday of every month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

See you there.

~ Winston

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 VMH)
Mail: PO Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428
Tel: 310.253.6941 • Email: info@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org
Web: www.culvercityhistoricalsociety.org

Photos (from top):
• The ladies from the local “Red Hats.”
• The Fiesta costume display for the 60th Anniversary of the annual event.
• Beta Sigma Phi group who traveled from Riverside to tour the ARC
• CC Sister City Student Exchange group who visited in August.
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**

- _____ Individual Member ($15)
- _____ Family Member ($25)
- _____ Youth Member ($5)
- _____ Individual Lifetime Member ($250)
- _____ Family Lifetime Member ($500)
- _____ Patron Member ($100)
- _____ Business Member ($50)
- _____ Corporate Sponsor ($500)
- _____ Benefactor ($1000)
- _____ Organization ($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.

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<td>Petrelli's Restaurant</td>
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Please make checks payable to The Culver City Historical Society and mail to
P.O. Box 3428, Culver City, CA 90231-3428. For further information, call (310) 253-6941 or email: info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.

Contributions of both historic & social significance as well as monetary donations are encouraged, and the CCHS IRS tax exempt status may make such contributions tax deductible.

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**Joiners List**

Culver City Historical Society
PO Box 3428 • Culver City, CA • 90231-3428