



NEWS

Volume 36, No. 4. Fall 2015



Cathy Zermeno,
our first president

The Historical Society is 35!

Did you know that the Culver City Historical Society began in 1979 with an exploratory meeting hosted by former Fire Chief John Kearney and his wife, Mildred? Their Garfield Avenue home was crowded with interested locals. In 1980, the Society became a reality with bylaws written by parliamentary experts Rusty Kostick and Esther Tarn. Incorporation papers were drawn up and filed, courtesy of local resident Paul Jacobs, who also served on the Culver City Council. Today, the general meetings held in the Multipurpose Room of the Veterans Memorial Building are equally crowded with interested locals. This year, we take a moment to reflect on the Society's 35th anniversary.

The Historical Society continues to provide tours of the Archives to students from our Culver City schools, open our doors to the public regularly, present stellar quarterly programs, and be a resource to researchers, historians, city employees, sister city travelers, and history buffs alike. To date, thirteen historic sites are marked. We have expanded our reach beyond the city limits (and its 42 annexations), through the world of social media, where we are able to connect with people who have moved away or just love Culver City from afar. As you will read on the following page, we have put people in contact with each other to SHARE their histories.

There is little doubt that the Historical Society has changed over its 35 years, because our city has changed. For better or for worse, society's growing interconnectedness and globalization has put our once small city in a much larger picture. Cathy Zermeno gracefully led the Society as the first president 35 years ago. Her passion for costumes, along with the support of Syd Kronenthal, created what has become a cornerstone of the society's collection that visitors continually remark on and enjoy. As we move through this 21st century and toward our city's centennial, how do we continue to present this city's history as relevant and interesting to a growing "swipe and scroll" society? Our city is beautifully made up of multi-generational citizens. How do we share the city's history with all of them? These are questions that the Society must address in the next 35 years. And we are excited for the possibilities!

October 21, 2015 General Meeting and Program The History of the Culver City Police Department

The Culver City Historical Society's Fall General Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room in the Veterans Memorial Building at 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City.

The program will feature Culver City's Chief of Police Scott Bixby and Captain Ron Iizuka who will speak about today's Police Department and offer a PowerPoint presentation about its history. Special guests retired police Lieutenants Norman Traub, Frank Augusta and Tom Kendra (who also served as Chief of the Sierra Madre and Palm Springs Police Departments), will share their experiences as members of the Culver City Police Department in the 1950s and speak about the progress in the department over the years.

The public is invited to enjoy this free program. For information call (310) 253-6941 or send an e-mail message to info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org.



Chief Scott Bixby and
Captain Ron Iizuka

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.

Acting Newsletter Editor

Joy Jacobs

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Jeanne Conklin, Historic Sites Chair
Jeanne Conklin, Membership Chair
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STAY CONNECTED

CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety
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MEMBERSHIPS

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.

In Memoriam

Andy Alexander

Lee Wolkowitz



Your President's Message

By Michelle Bernardin

Dear Members,

This time next year, Culver City will commence a year-long celebration of its centennial. The Culver City Centennial Celebration Committee, headed by Councilmember Jim

Clarke, was conceptualized almost two years to help plan, coordinate, and carry out events, activities, and projects by individuals and organizations that will celebrate Culver City. Culver City businesses, organizations, schools, and individuals are working on their plans now.

The Historical Society has no intention of overlooking this auspicious marker in our city's history. I have called a few meetings of a working group, comprised of officers and society members, all of whom have an interest in how we as a society will celebrate the city's centennial. After a few brainstorming sessions, current working ideas include marking our 14th historical site, a Centennial Founder's Day Picnic, completing a project that will display all our city's trustees and councilmembers in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers of City Hall, and a mobile walking tour of our marked historic sites.

The next time we blink, it will be 2016. This organization will enter its 35th year with a newly elected board of officers, who will carry out and build upon the direction we are working out now. I hope you'll consider joining us in the celebration! As a member, you are always invited to attend an open meeting. Your opinions (and your help) are invaluable to the longevity and continued purpose of this organization.

Thank you for your support of YOUR Historical Society!

Our Modern Historical Society

The focus of the Culver City Historical Society is, of course, on history, but when it comes to social media and communications, we are "Thoroughly Modern Millies!"

Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CulverCityHistoricalSociety) at the time of this writing has over 950 friends who have clicked on the LIKE button, and receive up-to-date information about our activities as well as other organizations in the area offering news events. New posts, some with historic photos, appear several times a week and according to stats, we are receiving an average of 850 views a week.

Twitter is another way we spread the word and we have 355 followers who receive up-to-the-second newsworthy tweets at www.twitter.com/histofculvrcity.

A visit to our Web Page (www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org) offers encyclopedic information about our past and present. One can learn about a current Society event; read copies of former newsletters going back to 1982; discover information about each of our historically marked sites; see a timeline of Culver City's history; read about the MGM costume collection; purchase unique merchandise from our e-online store, and even see a list of our founding members! Since the beginning of 2015, we have had more than 2,800 visits to these pages.

To keep us technically up-to-date, we thank our Webmaster Dave Tavres who is always searching for more contemporary ways to help us stay in touch with our past.

Welcome to Our New Members

Jay Garacochea

Laura and Don McGaughey

Tami Rubin (Echo Horizon School)

Stacy Schlepp (Arclight Cinema)

David Van Zak

Scott Wyant



Notes From Your City Historian

By Julie Lugo Cerra

Your Archives At Work

Our historical society fields some interesting calls and emails and these two are worth sharing!

In July, an inquiry came in from a woman afar looking for information about a 1920s restaurant called "The Ham Tree Inn," at 6139 Washington Boulevard. Her grandmother worked there as a waitress when it re-opened in the late 1920s. She had bits and pieces of information and a few photos including one that pictured the building with its "Ham Tree" in front. A second inquiry came in the same week from a long time Fay Avenue resident. Her mother also worked at "The Ham Tree Inn" and across the street at Chris's Market.



The Ham Tree in early times- note what is hanging from the tree!



The opening day menu.

Historic Sites Chair, Jeanne Conklin, went to work! She spread the word, and we used local directories, which provide listings by street address as well...but we did not have access to one for that period. There were other complications. Some street addresses changed over the years, just like Main Street carried numbers in the 7000s early on—only to become the 3000s in more recent times. No luck on the first address.

We used our ties with the city to check old files. People

talked to people. Using the photo sent by the the woman, Jeanne and Tami Eskridge (another CCHistorical Society officer and super volunteer, who you have probably seen taking their morning walks around our fair city) headed east one day and kept searching. In the meantime, we learned it was near Fay Avenue across from Chris's Market, which is still there. The answer was getting closer.

We cruised neighborhoods, and found a building on the 8000 block of Washington Boulevard at Fay. It looked SO familiar—for good reason. Ten years ago, our Culver City Historical Society celebrated its 25th year with a historic car rally that ended at that vintage Culver City night spot. Today, it has a different name, but THAT WAS IT!!! Needless to say, there were some rewarding ties formed between the inquirers and those who helped solve this mystery! And your society is the beneficiary of some added information and vintage photos.

The Ham Tree Inn structure is still standing at 8641 W. Washington Blvd. and is now El Baron Restaurant & Night Club.



Florence Curran, the lovely grandmother/waitress who worked at the HamTree in the 1920s.

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 21: General Meeting and Program
Multi-Purpose Room, VMB, 7PM

Jan. 20: General Meeting and Installation of
Officers

ARC OPEN DATES

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3PM

Oct. 4

Oct. 18

Nov. 1

Nov. 15*

Dec. 6

Dec. 20

Jan. 3

Jan. 17

*Conversations Program: November 15, 2015

In response to many questions on family research, genealogist Alexander King, will discuss Thanksgiving as a great family research opportunity. The ARC is open from 1-3PM on that Sunday.

Bring questions---this could put more than whipped cream on your pumpkin pie!

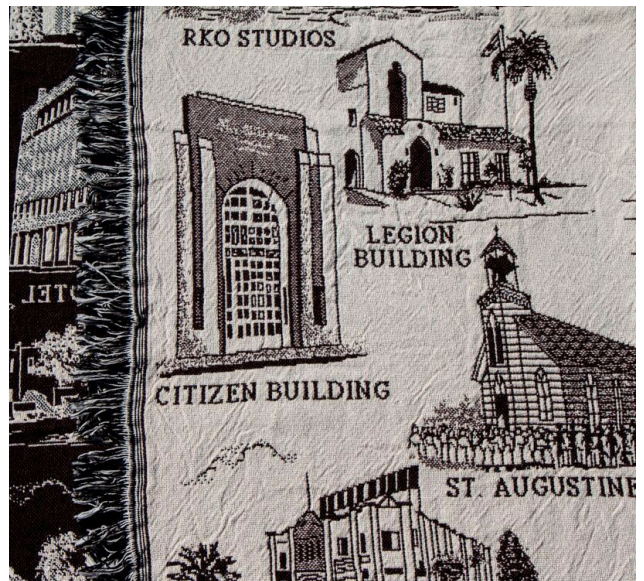


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(Left) On July 15 at our general meeting, the story of Johnnie's Pastrami was presented in a PowerPoint presentation to a filled-to-capacity audience, followed by questions, answers and additional comments from the owners of the restaurant. (photo by Kevin Lachoff)

(Below) On July 5, Alex King, a noted researcher/ genealogist, led one of our "Conversation" series in the Archives and Resource Center. He explained how to use digital resources and shared newspaper articles about Culver City's history as early as 1875. (photo by Dave Tavres)



(Above) This Culver City blanket, available now in CHOCOLATE BROWN, features 15 historic structures significant to "The Heart of Screenland," woven into this throw. Measures 69"x49," \$40. Available in the Archives gift shop or online at www.CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org/shop. (photo by George Bernardin)