



Culver Historical Highlights

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Spring 2012

NEW CCHS BOARD INSTALLED AT JANUARY DINNER-MEETING CITY TAVERN TO BENEFIT CCHS ON APRIL 3

COLUMN ONE

CITY TAVERN'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY TO BENEFIT THE CC HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON APRIL 3

City Tavern will be celebrating their first anniversary on Tuesday, April 3, and has invited the CC Historical Society to be the beneficiary of the celebratory evening.

From 5-7pm, City Tavern will only be open for a private fundraiser party for the CCHS, along with CT guests. They will serve complimentary appetizers and select libations.

City Tavern has pledged to give the Historical Society a generous donation. In addition, the restaurant will be open to the public after 7pm and the Historical Society will also benefit from 10% of ALL dinner bills. (cont'd. pg. 3)

*"Here Comes
the new
American
Tavern."*

*Of the People,
By the People,
For the People"*



LOUISE COFFEY-WEBB TO LEAD SOCIETY FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

The Installation of Louise Coffey-Webb as the new CCHS President along with her new Board of Officers was held on Wednesday, January 18th at the historic Culver Studios in downtown Culver City. At the buffet dinner event, the Installing Officer was special guest, Dr. Janet R. Fireman, Editor, California History.

It was a great turnout of CCHS members and friends and an array of City officials. Joining the celebration were former CC Mayors Steve Rose, Scott Malsin and his wife Amy, Councilman Andy Weissman and his wife Doneil, City Manager John Nachbar, Erin Stennis from Mark Ridley-Thomas' office, CC City

(cont'd. pg. 5)



New Culver City Historical Society Board

(L-R): Linda Forman, Lisa Nivens, Steve Fry, new President Louise Coffey-Webb, Julie Lugo Cerra and Michelle Bernardin. (Not pictured is Steve Rose.)

~ Photo by Kevin Lachoff

~ APRIL 18TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~

Special Program: "Broadway Melody: The Songs & Stories"

The Culver City Historical Society's Spring General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18th 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.

The program, presented by tenor Winston Gieseke (CCHS Webmaster) and pianist Stephen Fry (CCHS VP, Programs) will be a live musical and narrative review of the original songs for the immensely popular series of "Broadway Melody" film productions. The public is invited to sing along with several of the most familiar tunes, and song sheets will be provided (see pg. 4 for more information).

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. 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 Louise Coffey-Webb



Dear members,

I am still glowing from the warm welcome and fun celebration we had at the installation in January.

Held at the historic Culver Studios, we were captivated with the pertinent and humorous talk given by installing officer Dr. Janet Fireman, editor of the California History journal and former Head of the History Division at the Natural History Museum downtown.

While some Board members have stepped down from their offices, everyone is still involved in some way with our wonderful Society. I am delighted with such dedication and continuity of effort.

PLANS IN PROGRESS FOR MORE EVENTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This year we are continuing to look more closely at our collections, explore our resources and discover our place in this fair city, as well as our place in the larger community.

We are planning to offer more events for you than our standard four public General Membership meetings each year, while increasing the information offered on our website.

We begin with a special fundraiser on Tuesday April 3rd, courtesy of the City Tavern, to celebrate its first anniversary. Just two weeks later, on April 18th at our Spring General Meeting, we will have as our program a "Broadway Melody" evening of songs and stories relating to the marvelous MGM musicals of the golden age of cinema. Please read the separate articles for more details on both these events, and be sure to come and join us!

You will be reading familiar contributors to our newsletter, such as Julie Lugo Cerra – but with her new "hat" as VP of the Museum/ARC – and Marc Wanamaker's "Reel Culver City." Watch for a column from the new Chair of Costumes: Sharon Shore.

At the end of April we will say a "physical" farewell to Winston Gieseke, our former VP of the Museum/ARC, as he moves to Berlin, Germany. However – and very happily for us – he will remain with us "virtually" as he becomes our official Webmaster, operating from abroad. So now our Society is becoming truly international!

We are extremely excited about the possibility of Culver City's Wende Museum becoming our neighbor. What with the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum already our neighbor on the east side of Overland Avenue, we could become a veritable "Museum Corridor."

Happy Spring to you all – and please remember to renew your membership! It's still the best deal in town, supporting the many events we bring you, and helping to keep our history alive for generations to come.

~ Louise

REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR CCHS MEMBERSHIP

by Tami Eskridge
Membership Chair

As January was CCHS Membership Renewal, we hope you will renew now and continue to enjoy the many new and exciting things coming up.

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). Please 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 Culver-ites in distant areas!
(see form on pg.8)

GIVE THE "GIFT OF HISTORY"

Consider giving the "Gift of History" to your family and friends for any occasion.

A CCHS membership will show your pride in our great city's history. Also, we have our popular "throws" (see photo below), license plate holders, note cards and great new books.



Look for *Movie Studios of Culver City*, co-authored by our own Marc Wanamaker and Julie Lugo Cerra.

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, Sharon Stone

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Kevin Lachoff..... Photographer

Editor's Column

With a brand new CCHS Board installed on January 18th, a new chapter for the Society begins.

New President Louise Coffey-Webb will be building on the strong leadership and visions of past President Stu Freeman. She, and her Board and Chairs, represent both long-standing members as well as newer additions, giving future events and programs even more variety and range.

With the many visitors and history buffs coming to the ARC monthly, new exhibits and displays will delight old friends and new. Make plans to come often!

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

"Notes from Your City Historian"

Julie Lugo Cerra has graciously accepted the position as CCHS Vice President, ARC/Museum. She will now combine her role as City Historian and her terrific column, "Notes from Your City Historian" with the "ARC Update" column to cover both the Archives collections and programs along with the Society's interaction with the City and community at large.
(see pg. 7)

REEL CULVER CITY



by Marc Wanamaker

CULVER CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AND THE MARGARET PERRY AIRPORT



One of the most important industries that helped the Los Angeles area develop into one of the world's major cities was the aviation industry.

Beginning at the turn of the last century with ballooning in 1903, private airports were created by celebrities in the motion picture industry such as Cecil B. DeMille, Charles and Sydney Chaplin as well as some major land owners.

"AIR MEETS" BRING AREAS TOGETHER

Many areas surrounding Los Angeles created small airports due to the "air meets" in the nine-teens and twenties and for commerce knitting together outlying areas such as Pasadena, Glendale, Riverside, Santa Monica, etc.

When Harry Culver was developing Culver City and later when he was the head of the California Real Estate Board, he flew with his pilot from the newly established Culver City Municipal Airport to give the town a sense of place and to attract commerce.

THE CC MUNICIPAL AIRPORT BECOMES HOME TO FIRST WOMEN STUNT PILOTS

Located at what is today Sepulveda, Jefferson and Slauson Blvds., the Culver City Municipal Airport became a home to the first association of women motion picture stunt pilots, the Ninety-Nines.

The leading Hollywood Aviators may have appeared to be crazed daredevils, but they were actually brave precision pilots. Aviators performed in nearly 200 motion pictures during the twenties and more so in the 1930s. Their scenes sold tickets to films and aerial scenes were written into many movies in order to draw bigger audiences.

STUNT PILOTS ASSOCIATIONS INCREASE FILM ATTENDANCE

Before Harry Culver created the Culver City Municipal Airport, Ince Airfield in Venice was the nearest airfield in the area having been established there in 1919 just after the WWI. Owned by producer/director Thomas Ince, Hollywood aviator B.H. DeLay was the manager/pilot who later acquired the field after Ince's death in 1925.

DeLay was one of the first to professionalize the stunt pilots in films. Associations such as the 13 Black Cats, Ninety-Nines, and the AMPP (Association of Motion Picture Pilots) increased their power in the Motion Picture Industry from the 1920s through the 1940s.

THE NINETY-NINES HEADQUARTERS OPENS AT CC AIRPORT IN 1929

In 1929, in cooperation with Harry Culver, the Ninety-Nines women's stunt pilots association opened their own headquarters at the Culver City Municipal Airport, naming it the Margaret Perry Airport.

Internationally-known pilot Amelia Earhart was their first president and Perry the second. Also, at this time the newly formed organization formed the famed First Women's Air Derby based out of Culver City.

CHANGES COME IN THE 1930s

With the coming of the 1930s the Culver City Municipal Airport became known as the Baker Airport owned by Baker and Blair. One could get flying lessons there and arrangements were made for the Goodyear Blimp to land in Culver City from time to time.

Across the street from the airport was Joe Petrelli's Airport Café when the airport was still called the Culver City Airport.

By the 1950s, the history of Culver City and aviation was overshadowed by the expansion of the Hughes Aircraft plant and its runway. There, the Spruce Goose was built and tested.

Most people have forgotten that Culver City had its own airport and that it was an important and historic airfield that contributed to the development of Culver City as a film factory town and the aviation industry as well.



NINETY-NINES at the Culver City Municipal Airport on May 9, 1930. This photo was taken on the formal opening of the Margaret Perry Ninety-Nines headquarters in Culver City.

"City Tavern" (cont'd.)

From the Rush Street guys – Ken Kaufman & Brian McKeaney – comes their newest Culver City venue, an old school tavern. Distressed brick walls, reclaimed wood floors & walls, warm wood tables and chairs, a communal cafeteria table outside and a communal bar top through the main entry.

Old school, until you look at the menu where you will find refined comfort food for lunch and dinner, 22 of the best California

craft draft beers behind the bar, a boutique California specific wine program and some of the best hand crafted cocktails on the West Side.

Did we mention the Table Tap booths? CITY TAVERN is the 1st state approved establishment to offer a computerized draft beer system at its three booths where patrons can pour their own beer – three craft beers – at their table. We swipe a card, you pour the beer!

History of Location

The history of the site is complex as it runs from Culver to Washington Boulevards. This "New American Tavern" is located on a portion of Rancho La Ballona, founded in 1819, by the Machado and Talamantes families.

The address is listed as 9739 Culver Blvd. From the city files and local directories, the first business appears to be "Mike & Ike's," then followed by "Curtis Products West," and Neil Shultz' "Shear Excellence" (a beauty and barber shop from 1983-84). The next owner was James L. Hall as "Upstairs Coiffures" in 1988.

Food entered the picture as Geo. Goucher Lafland's "Take Your Lunch" in 1995, and in 1997, the next owner was Broadway Best Bagels, followed by David Sigematsu and Jay Handal, who did business as "The Juice Café" in 1999. The last use before "The Rush Street guys, Ken Kaufman and Brian McKeaney," took over was a sandwich place called "Melt Down."

The 9806 Washington side has entries from the Culver City Business License files that go back to a "Sportsman's Exchange," with owners listed as Geo. Joyce, H.D. Lowry and Austin Collier. The 1949 local directory further defines that business as Sporting Goods, and Mr. Collier, who lived nearby at 4154 Madison Avenue, was a Lt. with the CC Police Dept.

Later entries include Industrial Litho, owned by a John L. Stewart, then J. R. Musselman was shown as the operator, with a later change to Glen I. Dombrowski, as "L M Price Ent." The last owner listed was Duke Watson. Watson served on the Culver City Council from 1954-62, and as mayor his last two years. From 1984 to 1999, it was listed as "Intl. Soc. For Krishna Consciousness of CA, Inc." During that time, a retail rosary business is also listed from 1991-92, as "Rosaries Int. Corp." In 1993, the site changed to a restaurant named "JAVAZOO" owned by M. E. Matchel & Sue Crawford, followed by "Double Dutch Dinette" in 1998.

Please join us and support the Society by having a wonderful time at this extraordinary new restaurant. Come for a drink, stay for dinner! And, of course, encourage your family, friends, and fellow CCHS members to come, so we can fill the room and be merry! City Tavern is located at 9739 Culver Blvd., directly across from City Hall. There will be a list at the door from 5-7pm, so please RSVP to rsvp@culvercityhistoricalsociety.org. Make a dinner reservation by calling CT directly at 310.838.9739.

“BROADWAY” COMES TO LIFE IN CULVER CITY!

The Culver City Historical Society (CCHS) will present “Broadway Melody: The Songs & Stories,” featuring the history, music, songs and stories from the MGM *Broadway Melody* musical movies produced between 1929 and 1924 at its general meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at 7 p.m. (see pg. 1).

The program, presented by tenor Winston Gieseke and pianist Stephen Fry, both CCHS members, will offer a musical and narrative review of original songs from the immensely popular series of *Broadway Melody* film productions made in the “Heart of Screenland.” Mostly composed by Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown, the tunes will include the popular hits, “You Were Meant for Me,” “Wedding of the Painted Doll,” “All I Do is Dream of You,” “Temptation,” “Singin’ in the Rain,” and many more. Song sheets will be provided for several of the pieces for a sing along.

The Broadway Melody of 1929 was the first sound film to win an Academy Award for Best Picture. It was one of the first musicals to feature a Technicolor sequence, which sparked the trend of color used in a flurry of musicals that were made in subsequent years. It was the first musical released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and the first all-talking musical. Portions of the production can be seen on YouTube.

Freed began his career as a song-plugger and pianist in Chicago. He was an associate producer on *The Wizard of Oz* motion picture, then was promoted to being the head of his own unit within MGM, and helped elevate the studio to the leading creator of film musicals. As producer of the movie version of *Babes in Arms* he created the long series of “let’s put on a show” backyard musicals, all starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. He collaborated as lyricist most notably with song writer Nacio Herb Brown.

Brown, who attended Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles, was a self-taught song writer. After several early hit shows he was hired by MGM to write movie music for the new medium of sound film in 1928. Besides collaborating with Freed, Brown also worked with Richard A. Whiting and Buddy De Sylva on several Broadway musicals.

Winston Gieseke has studied music theory and filmmaking, which serves him well in his various careers as a writer, performer, and aspiring circus freak. He has written for television shows like *Hollywood Off-Ramp* and *Wildfire* and penned the made-for-cable movie *Romantic Comedy 101*, which starred Tom Arnold and Joey Lawrence. He has also performed the National Anthem at several L.A. Dodgers games, and last year enjoyed a sold-out, two-night gig at M Bar in Hollywood. He has served as Managing Editor of *The Advocate*, a national LGBT news magazine, and recently finished a two-year stint on the board of the Culver City Historical Society. His passions include history, criminology, the musicals of Stephen Sondheim, the films of Pavel Novotny, and just about anything Italian. He counts Henry Rollins and Patty Hearst among his many influences. Winston’s debut album, *On the Edge*, will be released later this year by LML Music. He is currently the CCHS Webmaster.

Stephen M. Fry, current VP for Programs, has lived in Culver City with his wife Frances Talbott-White since 1975. He retired several years ago after a 30-year academic career at UCLA, but continues to write for academic journals. An avid coin and stamp collector, he recently completed the definitive article on music topical stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service for the multi-volumed *Grove Dictionary of American Music*, 2nd ed. For more than a decade he contributed a weekly newspaper column, called “Music To My Ears” to the *Culver City News*, and has just completed a book on the country dances published in *The Gentleman’s Magazine* from 1744-1757. He is a pianist who performs popular music, jazz and sometimes country dance music in many local clubs, hotels and casual venues. He directs the Westside Jazz Ensemble, an exciting big band established in Culver City in the late 1970’s, and also directs Razzmatazz, a jazz and pop music combo. He joined the Historical Society a few years ago, after presenting a program at their general meeting on the history of music in Culver City.

Mark your calendars and don’t miss this wonderful evening of musical standards performed by two outstanding talents – and be sure to bring your friends!



From left, Winston Gieseke and Steve Fry.

~ ~ ~ PRESERVING HISTORY FOR OVER 30 YEARS !"

"NEW CCHS BOARD INSTALLED" (cont'd)

Attorney Carol Schwab and Heather Baker of the City Attorney's office, Cultural Affairs Commissioner Michelle Bernardin, Cultural Affairs Staff member Christine Byers, and School Board member Nancy Goldberg. We were also happy to see Chris Wild, Harry Culver's grandson.

President Coffey-Webb outlined several new programs and objectives the Society plans on presenting in the new year. More programs – both educational and entertaining – will be scheduled monthly.

MEET YOUR NEW CCHS BOARD

Louise Coffey-Webb, President. Raised in England where she worked for the BBC, Louise became a lifetime CCHS member in 1996. For the past few years she has been the CCHS Chair of the Costumes Committee, while working at Woodbury University where she was Department Chair for Fashion Design. Currently the US Representative for the British designer, Zandra Rhodes, Louise is also on the board of The (American couture designer) Galanos Foundation, as well as a member of the National Board for The Costume Society. Louise has also worked variously as Curator, Collections Manager and Archival Advisor to such institutions as the LACMA, Sony Pictures Entertainment Archives, and Warner Bros. Museum, among others.

Stuart Freeman, Immediate Past President. Stu's grandparents first came to Culver City in the mid-1920s from the Pittsburg, PA area, and soon opened Freeman's Market at 9715 Washington Blvd. (now occupied by Alandale's Mens Clothing store). In 1939, the year Stu was born, his parents, Bert and Minnie Freeman, purchased the market and ran it until 1950. In 1951, they started Freeman Furniture at 9543 Culver Blvd. (in the historic Hull Building). Ever the entrepreneur, after several successful ventures, in 1989, Stu agreed to manage the Culver City properties owned by his father and aunt – and has been managing them ever since. The Hull Building (CCHS Historic Site # 2) now is home to Akasha Restaurant.

Stephen M. Fry, VP, Programs. (See full bio in the "Broadway" program article on pg. 4.)

Julie Lugo Cerra, VP, Museum/ARC. Julie Lugo Cerra is a 6th generation Californian. She is a founding member and past president of the Culver City Historical Society. She has served as the City Council-appointed "Official City Historian since 1996. Julie is a local consultant with a wide variety of clients, and currently working on her fifth book.

Michelle Bernardin, VP, Ways & Means. Michelle's roots in Culver City go back to her father, whose family moved from Santa Monica to the west side of Culver City in 1956. She attended St. Augustine's and then followed her dad's steps to Culver City High School. She is a Bruin, studied art history at UCLA, and continued her graduate work at Tufts University in Massachusetts. She has been at Loyola Marymount University for the last year and a half, fundraising in the Office of Women and Philanthropy. Prior to that, she spent ten years at the Museum of Contemporary Art, managing the museum's two volunteer support councils and the internal logistics for the annual fundraising events. She has also been a member of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission since 2010.

Lisa A. Nivens, Secretary. A Private Mortgage Banker with the Wells Fargo Private Bank in Downtown Los Angeles, Lisa spent many years serving Culver City at the Wells Fargo Mortgage office and is still a trusted and dependable residential Culver City lender. Her formal education includes an extensive background in History with a B.A. from UC San Diego and an M.A. from UC Los Angeles.

Linda K. Forman, Treasurer. Linda K. Forman and her husband Joel have lived in Culver City since 1976. They have a son and a daughter (who went straight through the Culver City schools) and four grandchildren. They love Culver City and want to preserve its history. After Linda retired, with over 35 years' service at the Keck School of Medicine (KSOM) where she helped facilitate its transformation from the USC School of Medicine in 1999, and Security Pacific Bank, she decided to bring her administrative skills to the Culver City Historical Society, accepting the position of treasurer.

Steve Rose, Parliamentarian. Steven J. Rose began learning parliamentary procedure in his youth in JayCeas. Steve, a Culver City resident since 1947 and a Culver High grad in 1964, is a founding member of the CC Historical Society and has served as president. The Chamber just celebrated Steve's 25 years of service as its Chair/President.

INSTALLATION FUN

(Clockwise) New Ways & Means Committee: Michele Lachoff, VP Michelle Bernardin & Adrienne Bernardin; Pres. Louise Coffey-Webb with Dr. Janet Fireman; Doneil & Andy Weissman; Pres. Louise & outgoing Pres. Stu Freeman.



(L-R) City Attorney Carol Schwab, Chris Wild (Harry Culver's grandson), Martha Sigall, Julie Lugo Cerra & Lydia Spiegelman



Photos by Kevin Lachoff

NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR . . .

by Sharon Shore
Costume Committee Chair

WOMEN'S HISTORY TAKES STAGE

Our latest costume display is an homage to women's history in the West represented by many diverse items.

One special display includes photos and historic references to a little known "woman behind the man", Lillian Roberts Culver, an actress who married our city founder, Harry Culver in 1916.

Also included in the presentation are personal keepsakes from a locally prominent 19th Century lady represented by a decorative hair comb made of horn and faceted jet stones – and an authentic cattle branding iron that she applied for personally (not as a "wife of") certified by the state for her exclusive use in 1892! [This is on loan from the Carlos Lugo Collection.] Certainly a woman well ahead of her time, be sure to stop by and see who this formidable woman was!

WOMEN'S HISTORY TAKES STAGE

From our extensive film history costume archive is a corset worn by actress Gwen Verdon, a former resident of Culver City, in the MGM musical, *The Merry Widow*, and a silk scarf from the personal wardrobe of Greta Garbo donated by Historical Society member Maxine Mytar.

Finally, with a dazzling nod to the fictional "Wild West," our center stage mannequin is dressed in a red and white striped dress worn by Julie London as Joan Blake in *Saddle the Wind* an MGM film produced in 1958. This 1880s-style dress, features a bustle with a bouffant red bow at the back and tightly fitted waist.

As part of our Spring cleaning effort at the ARC, we have successfully cleaned the original custom-sized case and rearranged the set of seven miniature *Gone With the Wind* costumed figures. Look for them now at top level of display/bookcases in the museum.

YOUR COSTUME CARE TIP FOR SPRING-CLEANING

As you peruse and cull through your collection of family heirlooms, vintage clothing and accessory keepsakes during this year's Spring cleaning, be sure to remove those clear plastic dry cleaning bags! They are provided as a courtesy by dry cleaners for short term storage and

allow us to keep the item clean and dry while traveling from the car to the house.

However, they are not intended for long term storage. If left in contact with clothing and accessories for long periods of time, the plastic changes chemically and can cause irreversible discoloration and even degradation to some textile fibers such as silk and wool.

Cloth garment bags and even improvised clean sheets as covers are a safer bet for long term textile storage.

More tips to come in future columns.

~ Sharon



Above: Costumes Chair Sharon Shore (R) and CCHS President Louise Coffey-Webb (L) making some changes in the displays and moving the encased *Gone With The Wind* dolls (donated by the Pitti family) to a new viewing location – and using a lot of elbow grease to get the cases sparkling!

Below: The wonderful "Wild West" dress worn by singer/actress Julie London in *Saddle the Wind* takes center stage at the ARC.



MARK YOUR "2012" CALENDAR

APR. 18: CCHS SPRING GEN. MEETING:
"BROADWAY MELODY" PROGRAM

JULY. 18: CCHS PICNIC & GEN. MEETING

OCT. 17: CCHS FALL GEN. MEETING

The CC Cultural Affairs Commission meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Council Chambers, City Hall

For more information on any of these events, please contact the CCHS:
info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org
or Tel: 310.253.6941. Or visit our web:
www.culvercityhistoricalsociety.org

Welcome New CCHS Member

- Donie Nelson

Thanks to

~ Marc Wanamaker for donating a wonderful art piece print of MGM's "Leo the Lion" sitting for his portrait!

In Memoriam

Long time member Jeanette Block passed away in March – our condolences to Lou Block and family. Jeanette was known for her famous desserts she often brought to events!

Donna Robertson, widow of historian Jim Robertson, passed away in March. Our hearts go out to the Robertson family.

Sunshine Wishes

Well wishes go out to the Abrams, Steve Rose and Ed Wolkowitz, June Caldwell and Charlotte Madden – be well soon!

2012 ARC Volunteer Dates

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 pm

Call to confirm dates: 310.253.6941

Apr. 7	Apr. 21	May 5
May 19	Jun. 2	Jun. 16
Jul. 7	Jul. 21	Aug. 4
Aug. 18	Sep. 1	Sep. 15
Oct. 6	Oct. 20	Nov. 3
Nov. 17	Dec. 1	Dec. 15

Check our website/telephone message for upcoming screenings on view at the ARC: "Local History, Legends and Lore," featuring interviews with a focus on local historic women including Jozelle Smith, Ethel Ashby, Jean Barker and June Caldwell, plus Martha and Sol Sigall.

As May is Historic Preservation month, come view another episode of "Local History, Legends and Lore" which includes a segment on past-president Stu Freeman as the 3rd generation owner of the historic Hull Building. Also don't miss the PBS Huell Howser Culver City episode, which takes viewers on a tour of our city as well as seeing the view from the Veterans Memorial Building tower – a rare sight!

An ARC Update

by Julie Lugo Cerra
Vice President,
Museum/ARC and
City Historian



THE ARC/MUSEUM COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS WORK

First, let me thank all of the folks who have expressed interest in the Museum Committee. We had our first meeting in January with Bill Barnett, Louise Coffey-Webb, Sharon Shore, Michelle Bernardin, Carol Schwab, Steve Rose and David Warshaw joining in a discussion of our goals and available help – and we are open to all suggestions.

Also, we are exploring some added display methods, and have invited bids from those who can help us enhance our display space. If you are interested in volunteering in the ARC on our open days – the first and third Saturday of each month (see *Calendar*) – or for our work “parties,” please let me know.

THE MANN THEATRE DEMOLITION OFFERS WONDERFUL FILM PHOTOS TO SOCIETY

Stu Freeman, with some contact assistance from Kevin Lachoff, rescued the large movie photos displayed in the former Mann Theatre, which is being demolished! Some are eight feet tall and up to five parts! Now, where are we going to put them.....stay tuned!

THE CCHS SALUTES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH & MRS. HARRY CULVER

March is Women's History Month, so some special pieces will remain on view for everyone to enjoy through April. There is a lovely portrait of Mrs. Harry Culver and her daughter, Patricia. In addition, a book written by Harry Culver's great grandson, Robert Battle, is on loan for this exhibit, opened to pages on Mrs. Culver.

We will also be showing off some of Harry Culver's 1929 scrapbook that depicts the Culver family's travels across the country. Harry Culver was head of the National Real Estate Association and his family joined him on his cross-country trip.

A VARIETY OF VISITORS COME TO THE ARC FOR FUN & RESEARCH

Visitors to the ARC have been numerous and with varied interests. We enjoyed hosting Erin Stennis from the office of our 2nd District County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas, and had a group of Early Settler descendant genealogists from the Santa Monica area.

Sister City visitors are always a pleasure and we were able to furnish downtown tours in March for the US/Mexico Sister Cities Conference attendees. We have also spent

time with the runners from Kaizuka, Japan, here to run in the L.A. Marathon on March 18th, who were visiting last month.



Above: We were delighted that the Kaizuka marathon runners who came into town for the L.A. Marathon took time to visit the CCHS ARC. Sister City Kaizuka Chair Kathleen McCann (at far right) shared many interesting facts about our displays and collection.

Below: Archives visitors in March included a group of Santa Monica Early Setter Descendants and genealogists. Museum Chair Julie Lugo Cerra (seated, center) gave a short history of our area. Standing, at right is Donie Nelson, who is a new CCHS member and genealogist.

(Photo taken by CCHS member and Archives volunteer on duty Carol Schwab. If you would like to volunteer, please call or email the Society)



Coming up, CCHS President Louise Coffey-Webb, Jeanne Conklin and I will host a group of Brandeis ladies in early May. They are coming in from “the Valley” to visit the ARC, and afterwards they will stay in town to enjoy lunch in one of our wonderful restaurants.

Some items from our collection were shown off at the recent Rotary Club fundraiser in March. Their theme was “The Yellow Brick Road.” Thanks, Linda and Joel Forman for your help!

MTA/EXPO: Kim Upton from the MTA asked for help on basic history of the city, with an emphasis on “The Heart of Screenland.” Kim took time to visit the ARC twice, first for background information and second with a film crew. We will be featured in their upcoming

cable TV piece for the arrival of the EXPO in Culver City, “the Heart of Screenland.” They also visited and taped at Sony Pictures and around town.

And speaking of taking to the road, as City Historian, I visited the Mar Vista Gardens Continuation High School. Many of their students have a fondness for Culver City, its history and strange boundaries. Vitaly, the teacher, arranged for Sue McCabe and I to drop by with a power point presentation and field questions. It was great fun!

We will also participate in El Marino's tour days in the spring, and La Ballona has also expressed interest in our historic help!

CC PARKS & REC ANNUAL PARKS TOUR



Flanked on the left by PRCS Director Dan Hernandez and on the right by Parks Director Patrick Reynolds, the PRCS Commissioners and guests began their annual parks tour from the ARC.

KNX RADIO SPOTLIGHTS CULVER CITY

It was nice to get a call from Chris Sedens at KNX Radio, who was interested in Culver City's history. He did some taping at the ARC, and around town before the March 9th broadcast of their “KNX On Your Corner” program.

They broadcasted live from Culver City at our historic Culver Hotel. Many of our members were taped in advance – others live that day, including Mayor O'Leary and councilmember Jeff Cooper, former mayor and CCHS president Steve Rose, and Dannie Cavanaugh, as well as Kevin Lachoff, Goran Eriksson, John Byers and yours truly.

We have also been working to help a woman in search of her biological father who was stationed at “Fort Roach” during WWII. He was apparently in the First Motion Picture Unit (FMPU) during WWII, and his “barracks” were in the Pacific Military Academy. There is a display of items from the collection of former FMPU combat photographer, Robert Elliott, in the Archives which help to bring back a few memories!

In the meantime, we are very much a part of the Veterans Memorial complex so we stay in touch with PCRS Director Dan Hernandez. The building should be re-opened by the time this arrives!

~ Julie

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
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