

# Culver Historical Highlights

Volume 29 No. 1

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Winter 2008

## "HAPPY NEW YEAR" ~ 2008 !

### STU FREEMAN ELECTED TO BE CCHS' 11<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT

#### CC CITY HALL ROOM NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

The City has asked the Historical Society to offer suggestions for naming City Hall rooms in the future for appropriate city leaders and/or personalities.

For example, named rooms currently include the Dan Patacchia Conference Room and the Mike Balkman Council Chambers (both named for former CC Mayors who were outstanding civic leaders) as well as rooms with the names of stars significant to our city, like the great comedy team, Laurel and Hardy.

The deadline to send a list of possible names to the City is the end of January, 2008. This is a great opportunity for the Society to participate and offer an informed historic voice. If you would like to offer suggestions for consideration, please contact Julie Lugo Cerra, CCHS Government Liaison. She can be reached at (310) 558-3818 or by email at [julie@cerraenterprises.com](mailto:julie@cerraenterprises.com).

**CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
TOWN HALL MEETING**  
*A great opportunity for input on Historic  
Preservation & Art in Public Places.*

**CITY HALL**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008 - 7 PM**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION: 310.253.5716**

#### LONG-TIME CULVER CITY RESIDENT & BUSINESSMAN TO TAKE THE 2008-2010 TERM

At the Fall General Meeting on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the CCHS membership elected a new Board to lead the Society for the next two years (see *adjacent story*). The new Officers will be:

President:	Stu Freeman
VP, Programs:	Fred Yglesias
VP, Archives:	Martha & Sol Sigall
VP, Ways & Means:	Doug Newton
Secretary:	Jeanne Conklin
Treasurer:	Tamela Eskridge

It was a full agenda with special guest, Walter (Wally) N. Marks, III discussing "Helms Bakery through the Years." Mr. Marks, the third generation owner of the Helms Building, shared the history, current use and the future of this famed structure. Helms Bakery, which straddles the border of Culver City and Los Angeles, rose to prominence for its "Olympic Bread" baked for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. The Marks Family has owned and managed the building since the early 1970s.

Special thanks to our out-going Secretary, Mary Gibson, for providing the refreshments enjoyed by all.

#### MEET YOUR NEW BOARD

##### STU FREEMAN

President-elect Stu Freeman has stated that his first priority for the upcoming two years is to increase the CCHS membership, especially with young members who will carry on and preserve the many successes that the Society has achieved to date.



Stu Freeman

"The past twenty-five plus years has set the foundation for the Society's future. We have now secured a museum (archives) location which was achieved after many years of hard work by many dedicated members," Stu observed. "My goal will be to see that this hard work continues and that we involve the younger members of our community in the Society's mission to collect, preserve and exhibit the history of Culver City."

It was Stu's grandparents, Molly and Louis Freeman, who first came to Culver City in the mid-1920s from the

(cont'd. pg.7)

## JANUARY 16, 2008: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER-MEETING

### ~ INSTALLATION of OFFICERS ~

The Culver City Historical Society's Winter General Membership Dinner-Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the historic Hull Building in downtown Culver City at 9543 Culver Boulevard.

This will be the Installation of President-Elect Stu Freeman and his Board as well as a *thank you* to outgoing President Cathy Zermeno. The Installing Officer will be Julie Lugo Cerra, assisted by Installation Co-Chair, Judy Stangler.

Seating is limited and reservations are a must for the buffet dinner catered by the new resident restaurant, AKASHA. Cost is \$40 per person. Please join us by mailing in the reservation insert which must be received no later than January 9, 2008. You may also call Julie Lugo Cerra at (310) 558-3818 for more information. *See you there!*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Cathy Zermeno



The past two years have gone by so very fast! We have had so many wonderful things happen and I'm very proud of our accomplishments.

First and foremost, we now have our Archive Research Center (ARC). I was privileged to sign a 5-year lease with the City of Culver City last January, 2007. This was a dream that we've all had since the beginning and now we have a place to call home for all of our wonderful memorabilia. Twice a week we meet to catalog and organize our collections, and our terrific Costume Chair, Louise Coffey-Webb, has indexed the MGM costumes.

Thanks to everyone on the CCHS Board and our great Chairmen – they all did an outstanding job. I thank the entire membership because without you we would not have an Historical Society. And to our guiding light, Julie Lugo Cerra, who has provided so much special help and really knows how to get things done! I also want to thank our newsletter editor, Judy Stangler, for the beautiful quarterly newsletters which have been much praised by our sister historical societies – she really puts energy into getting it looking as good as it does. We all should be proud of everyone who has worked so hard to put on the Society's public face.

Now, it is my pleasure to turn over the leadership to the newly-elected President, Stuart Freeman. He is especially qualified as Stu and his family have been very much a part of Culver City since the 1920s! Stu is the owner of the historical Hull Building in downtown Culver City. His father was the former owner, having had a furniture store there for many years after acquiring it from the original owner, Dr. Foster Hull. The Sunset Drug store was also located in the Hull Building and was a special gathering place where Culver City people would meet. Our Society's *Madrina* (godmother), Clarita Marquez Young, even worked at the soda fountain! Currently a new restaurant and bakery, AKASHA, will occupy the historic site.

I have so enjoyed the past two years as your president – as I did as your first CCHS President in 1980. All of your support has been very special to me and I thank you all!

Best,  
*Cathy Zermeno*

## Notes from Your City Historian

by Julie Lugo Cerra



### THE IVY SUBSTATION IS 100 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!

You might remember that a CC Historical Society member – noted railroad historian David Cameron – was the driving force in saving the wonderful Ivy Substation from demolition. The Caltrans plan to widen Venice Boulevard for a 1981 improvement project threatened the historic building, and David submitted the application to place the Ivy Substation on the National Register of Historic Places in order to save it.

Although the Ivy is not actually within our city boundaries, it is clearly the most visible gateway to the city. So, in 1987, the CC Redevelopment Agency entered into a long-term lease with the City of Los Angeles to renovate it and the adjacent Media Park. Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, prepared the design and construction plans. (I am privileged to sit on the Historic State Capitol Commission with Wayne, who now serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer.)

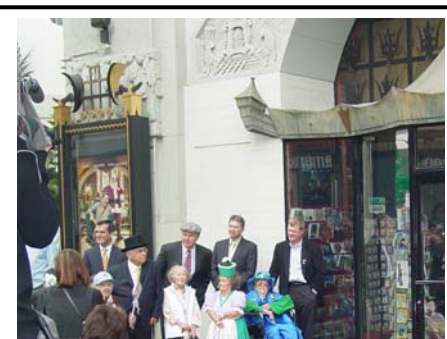
The substation sat next to a little depot – the very spot where city founder Harry Culver first noticed his wife-to-be, actress Lillian Roberts. She was waiting for the Red Car to go shopping in downtown Los

Angeles.

The Ivy reopened to a plethora of community events in 1993. The Center Theatre Group transformed it into a performing arts facility, and today, we are pleased that we have our own resident theatre company, The Actors' Gang at The Ivy Substation. The Ivy is also Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument #182. (see pg. 4 for photos of the Ivy Substation.)

### "WIZARD OF OZ" MUNCHKINS GET HOLLYWOOD STAR

On November 20, 2007, the Munchkins received their star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. *Finally!*



The "Munchkins" at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre

Sadly, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce seemed to forget to invite anyone from Culver City, but I went anyway. Doug Newton, Gen. Mgr. of the Culver Hotel (and new CCHS VP, Ways & Means) had earlier called to tell me that seven "munchkins" were in the hotel lobby

## Culver Historical Highlights

PO Box 3428 • Culver City, CA • 90231-3428  
(310) 839 - 7688

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, Sandy Burton, Steve Newton  
Printed by.....Mr. Printer

### Officers and Committee Chairs

Cathy Zermeno ..... President  
Steven J. Rose..... Past President  
Marty Nicholson..... VP, Program  
Robin Turner ..... VP, Museum  
Martha Sigall ..... VP, Ways & Means  
Mary Gibson ..... Secretary  
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Jozelle Smith ..... Public Relations  
Sandy Burton ..... Press Relations  
Judy Stangler..... Newsletter  
Sam Cerra..... Historic Sites  
Julie Lugo Cerra ..... Government Liaison  
Louise Coffey-Webb ..... Costumes  
Anita Shapiro ..... Sunshine

### Editor's Column

*Ring out the old – ring in the new!* As we say goodbye to 2007 and hello to 2008, we also bid goodbye to one CCHS Board of Officers and welcome a new one.

We certainly have a lot to be grateful for, most importantly, the new location for the CCHS ARC. At long last, we can spread out and get our wonderful collections archived and available to share with researchers and history buffs – and, hopefully, students doing important papers on our great city!

A huge "thank you" to our outgoing Board – they've done a simply fabulous job during their terms of office and a warm welcome to our Board-elect who will take up the reins on January 16, 2008. We look forward to exciting things ahead!

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

the week before! I was able to take photos of them back at the hotel, and at the star ceremony when the "horse of a different color (violet)" brought them to the Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where the *Wizard of Oz* premiered in 1939. (cont'd. on pg. 7)



Jerry Maren (L) & fellow "Munchkins" visit the Culver Hotel

# REEL



## CULVER CITY

by Marc Wanamaker

### **BEVERLY HILLS & CULVER CITY SPEEDWAYS**

The Culver City Speedway that was once located south of Culver Boulevard at Overland Avenue had its beginnings at Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills.

The mile-and-a-quarter wood board Speedway was originally constructed by the Speedway Association of Beverly Hills and was conceived by Beverly Hills real estate entrepreneurs, Silsby Spalding, Cliff Durant, Charles Canfield, Jake Dansinger among others. The Los Angeles Speedway track (as it was first named) measured 193 acres when it was opened in February of 1920.

For several years, the greatest names in motor racing appeared at the Speedway under the administration of the National Racing Circuit. The stadium was also used by the Beverly Hills Horse Show, the flower show, aviation shows and other events that brought thousands to Beverly Hills.

The Speedway was demolished after the Washington Day race in 1924, and the tract was purchased for development. Today, most of the former Speedway land has been developed into single family homes and apartment houses south of Wilshire. The area where the former Speedway once stood is now approximately bounded by South Beverly Drive, Charleville Blvd., Gregory Way and Spalding Drive.

In 1922, encouraged by the growing patronage of the Culver City nightclubs that flourished at this time, CC Council members approved plans for a thoroughbred horse-racing track which was built along Culver Boulevard, bounded on the west by Overland Avenue.

### **CC TRACK OPENS IN 1923**

Opening in 1923, the track did not attract the crowds that were expected, and by Thanksgiving, 1924, the Council was looking for something else to substitute for horseracing. It was at this time that Beverly Hills was giving up its auto racing Speedway and a deal was made to move it to the horseracing site in Culver City.

After approval by the Culver City Council, the Speedway track (made of wood) was purchased and re-assembled in the Fall of 1924, south of Culver Blvd., replacing the horseracing track. By this time auto racing



**Los Angeles Speedway in Beverly Hills  
(Feb. 28, 1922)**



**Culver City Speedway (Feb. 10, 1925)**

was very popular and the crowds came to Culver City from all over Southern California. The world's best drivers competed at the track, one of them was Ralph De Palma who set several speed records on the track that had a capacity of 60,000 spectators.

The wooden track was banked at a 43 degree angle creating conditions for high speed racing in cars that had little protection for the drivers if they crashed. Like Beverly Hills, other types of events were held at the track such as horse shows and location filmmaking since the track was located adjacent to the newly named Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios. The race track, which might be compared to the Indie 500

track of today, made Culver City an entertainment destination until the property was acquired in 1927 and, by 1928, the site had become Victory Park (now Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park), which is bounded by Braddock Drive, Motor Ave., Le Bourget, and Park Place, nestled in a quiet residential neighborhood – a far cry from the rowdy crowds of its heyday!

**Culver City Speedway:  
December 14, 1924 – March 6, 1927.**

\*\*\*

CCHS member Marc Wanamaker is a past VP, Museum and owns Bison Archives.



# CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ ~ ~

## 2007 ~ A YEAR IN REVIEW . . . . .

**2007** began on a high note with the story of the marking of the Culver City Historical Society's eleventh Historic Site: "Camp Latham."

This was a special event for our Historic Site Chair, Sam Cerra, who had long researched the historic significance of the site. It was to be his last major work for the Society before he passed away in August.

Pin-pointing the exact location was complicated by the meandering of La Ballona Creek before it was straightened and reinforced by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1935. With advances in today's technology, access to added materials validated Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra's early research on the location of Camp Latham near what we know today as Jefferson Blvd. and Overland Ave.

The Society was delighted to place the bronze marker at Rotary Plaza. It appears that more than 1500 volunteers were stationed at Camp Latham in its short existence.

More information on Camp Latham can be found at:  
<http://www.socalshopping.com/absolutenm/templates/?a=2808>



**CCHS Historic Site #11:  
Camp Latham**



**Historic Site Chair Sam Cerra (center)  
proudly looks at "Camp Latham"**

***Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.  
~ Oprah Winfrey***



***The Ivy Substation celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1907 – 2007***



***Bronze statue of Harry Culver reading the Sep. 21, 1917 paper with his wife Lillian and daughter Pat which now stands in front of the Culver Hotel.***



**~ CULVER CITY ~  
"The Heart of Screenland"**

# ~ ~ ~ CELEBRATING MORE THAN 25 YEARS !”

## **CULVER CITY: A TV STAR!**

How nice to have local TV station KTLA televise live from Culver City on their Morning Show on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 am (3 full hours!). Culver City has a lot to offer, and they did a nice job from profiling our past to the history-making changes now happening downtown!



*KTLA Morning News was broadcast live on May 18, 2007 in Town Plaza.*

## **“LIVING HISTORY” HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!**

As the popular CCHS “Living History Project” concluded for 2007, it was tough saying goodbye to the seniors who have participated for the past three years. These students have shown what creative young people we have here in Culver City!

The Society is immensely proud of them. We wish all great success in their future endeavors and thank them for showing that “History *really* can be fun!”

*Steve Rose made a presentation at the April CCHS General Meeting to four graduating seniors*



## **OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEETING**

Our special guest speaker was Walter N. Marks III (Wally), the third generation owner of the Helms Building, who shared with us the history, current use and the future of this famed structure. Helms Bakery, which straddles the border of Culver City and Los Angeles, rose to prominence for its “Olympic Bread” baked for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. The Marks Family has owned and managed the building since the early 1970s.



*Photos by Julie Lugo Cerra.*

## **SEPTEMBER 20, 2007: A CITY CELEBRATES!**

September 20, 2007 marked the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Culver City’s Incorporation, and to celebrate this landmark event, the Society put on a gala party – at the historic Culver Hotel!



*(L-R) Fred Yglesias, Cathy Zermeno and Steve Rose at Duke’s Bar.....*

*The historic Culver Hotel, built in*



*The lobby was crowded with happy celebrants.*



## NEWS FROM THE COSTUME CHAIR . . .

by Louise Coffey-Webb  
Costume Committee Chair

### WOODBURY UNIVERSITY STUDENT BEGINS CCHS INTERNSHIP

In November, Karla Contreras came to the ARC to help me photograph, assess and pack some costumes that had been on display. Who is Karla and why was she there?

First of all, she is partaking in the internship program at Woodbury University, Burbank, without which she cannot graduate with a BFA in Fashion Design, and Minor in Costume Design. These internships, for which students earn academic credit (but no remuneration) are essential components of the curriculum, affording the student unique experience in real-life situations along with networking potential. Karla graduates in May of 2008, and her creations will be seen at a Gala Fashion Show at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

### AN INTERVIEW WITH KARLA

I asked Karla a few questions to enlighten us.



*CCHS Costume Committee intern  
Karla Contreras*

**LCW:** When you were a little girl, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**KC:** I knew I wanted to be a costume or fashion designer. There was no sewing machine in the house, but there were pins and thread and tape, so I constructed Barbie clothes from scraps of fabric. Later on I became a big fan of period movies and loved to watch them to study the costumes.

**LCW:** Why did you decide to do a Costume Design minor?

**KC:** It was always in the back of my mind, but I was already doing a Fashion Marketing Minor. Then in my senior year, I decided "it was now or never!"

**LCW:** What do you see yourself doing after you graduate?

**KC:** Right after I graduate I will try to get

some job experience in Costume or Fashion Design. In the long run I would like to be a Costume Designer.

**LCW:** Why did you decide to do an internship with the costume collection at the Culver City Historical Society?

**KC:** It sounded very interesting and I wanted to be able to examine the costumes closely. I wanted to see what it is like to help maintain a collection and to meet the people who do that.



*This is the kind of construction detail that Karla is fascinated by and can learn from: It's the structure of an interior sleeve for an period costume.*

**LCW:** What do you think you can learn from historical costumes?

**KC:** I can learn techniques and details of construction. Ironically, when I began at Woodbury University, I used to think that we were more advanced now in our techniques, but I have found the opposite to be true! There is so much we can learn from the past.

**LCE:** Why do you think preservation is important?

**KC:** It's very important to be able to look back and see what was worn, what fabrics and techniques were used. It helps to learn how to identify time periods, such as whether they have hand-sewing, or used metal zippers instead of plastic.

**LCW:** What do you personally get out of the Woodbury University internship program?

**KC:** Experience and a footing of where you want to be. It helps you to decide, not only what you like, but what you don't like, and what's right for you. For example, a previous internship experience showed me that I do not want to work in sales. I think it's very important to see how procedures are done in the real world, and it's a good experience to know that you are representing a company or an institution. An internship works like a transition to a profession so it's important to leave a good impression. It is a way to grow beyond "just being a student." Also, I believe it is good to have well-rounded experience.

**LCW:** Thank you, Karla.

Karla will be helping me create a detailed inventory of all the costumes maintained at the ARC, complete with photographs and condition reports, as well as insuring that everything is optimally stored archivally, for the future appreciation of Culver City Historical Society members and visitors. ###

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JAN. 18TH: CCHS GENERAL MEET.  
& INSTALLATION-DINNER

### "THANK YOU" TO

#### OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Nancy Fishbein
- Carol Gustin
- Marla Koosed
- Cindy Mediavilla
- Frank Ready

#### AND NEW "LIFETIME" MEMBERS:

- Cathy Zermeno (*indv.*)

- **THANK YOU** to DEBBIE BERGER for her donation of a painting of CC High School's Robert Frost Auditorium.
- **THANK YOU** to JACK NEWTON & BILL HAHN for their always finding great things for the Society's ARC.

#### A Reminder:

### JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

by Reba Yudess, Membership Chair

January is Membership Renewal Month – and with the many new and exciting things coming up in the new year, 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, through its preservation work and our new Archives & Resource Center (ARC), and with such community outreach programs as the very popular "Living History Project" for Culver City students.

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 Culver-ites in distant areas!

(see form on pg.8)

### ~ IN MEMORIAM ~

#### SUE NEWTON

The Society sends its warmest best wishes and condolences to CCHS member Steve Newton and his family on the passing of his wife, Sue Newton.

#### KAY LYOU

A longtime CCHS member, a former member of the Board of Education, and a vital community activist and volunteer, Kay passed away in the Fall.

*Our friends will indeed be missed.*

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## "Notes" (cont'd)

Happily, NPR newsman Scott Simon made it known that his broadcast which reviewed the event on Saturday, December 8, was coming from Culver City! The "munchkins" were the subject of his interview with me at the Culver Hotel, where he and visiting NPR staff stayed.

### A GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE

While walking my dog around Dr. Paul Carlson Park on a recent Sunday afternoon, I noticed a group of cub scouts sitting on the grass, listening intently to an adult. The Den Mother apparent was holding up a book and telling them about an airport that used to be in Culver City – to which they reacted with interest and surprise. They answered questions, talked about the Culver Hotel, and other notable historic sites.

Of course we stopped and visited for a few minutes, to express pride in their command of local history. They were surprised to learn that I had written the book with the photos of the old buildings!

As I continued my walk, it was with a reinforced smile, reminded that the Society's future will be in the good hands of upcoming generations. Children naturally enjoy looking back into local history, which is why we need to continue our outreach to youth, through our tours, Living History program and new ideas.

AND ... how fitting that the Hull building, our Historic Site #2, is the venue for Stu Freeman's installation. My dad and Bert Freeman (Stu's dad) would be proud!

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## "Board" (cont'd)

Pittsburg, PA area with their son, Bert, and daughter, Sara. They 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. (the Hull Building). Everyday of his life, from grammar school through college, Stu would work at his parents' business after school.

He attended Hamilton High School (Class of Summer, 1957 – a classmate of Judy Stangler's cousin, Logan Frazee!), then Santa Monica City College. Because he liked the furniture business, in 1960 he quit school and became a factory representative for a local furniture manufacturer, working with them until 1972. Ever the entrepreneur, in 1973, Stu opened a sidewalk café in Marina del Rey and added a roller skate rental business in 1977. In 1979, he sold the business and was able to retire!

When Bert became ill in 1989, Stu agreed to manage the Culver City properties owned by his father and aunt – and has been managing them ever since. He hopes that his daughter, Jennifer, who was born in 1986 and is now attending college, will one day continue the "Culver City – Freeman Family" connection.

### THE NEW OFFICERS

(Ed. Note: These short bios serve to introduce our new Board, and we hope to have fuller profiles in future newsletters.)

#### FRED YGLESIAS: VP, PROGRAMS

A second generation Angelino born in 1927,

## An ARC Update .....

by Robin Turner, Vice President, Museum

### 2007: A BANNER YEAR!

This has been an exciting year for the Culver City Historical Society! As your outgoing Archive & Resource Center (ARC) Chair, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization. I can't believe I have been overseeing the development of our archives for the past four years, and am very proud of how much we've accomplished in that short amount of time.

This year, we settled into our new permanent home at the Veterans Memorial Complex, and have started regular Thursday and Saturday volunteer days. Both crews worked feverously to get our collections out of the storage boxes in order to set up our first special exhibit for the Fiesta la Ballona in August. The exhibit was a huge success.

The Society hosted Culver City's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the historic Culver Hotel where we set up a fabulous display of photos as our second major exhibit for all to enjoy. Across the Towne Plaza, we continue to set up a new CCHS exhibit in our window display at the Pacific Theater every few months so there is a year-round Society presence to remind the public of the wonderful memorabilia included in our collections.

Fred Yglesias has had a most interesting life. His father graduated from USC as a pharmacist and his stepmother was an accomplished violinist who played film "mood music" for many of the great MGM stars of the 1920s & 30s.

In 1944, his father signed for him to enlist in the Navy when he was just 16, a junior in high school. When he was discharged in Boston in 1946, he met his "partner, friend, lover and wife," Barbara, at a dance. They soon married and shared 59 years together until her passing in 2005. They have four children.

Fred worked for 37 years in the aerospace field, retiring in 1988. He then became an active volunteer in many organizations, and was one of the six founding members of the Museum of Flying at the Santa Monica airport. At a CC Council meeting, Julie Lugo Cerra asked him "to join us" – and he has!

#### MARTHA & SOL SIGALL: VP, ARCHIVES

Longtime Culver City residents (since 1949), Martha and Sol Sigall have been married for more than 60 years and have been active in many CC organizations while raising their two sons, Robert and Lee – and they are blessed with two grown grandchildren, Nicole and Dustin.

Martha is a famed animator who has written a wonderful memoir, *Living Life Inside the Lines: Tales from the Golden Age of Animation*, recalling her amazing experiences "of the wild and wacky teams that created cartoon classics for Warner Bros. and MGM Animation." Sol had a distinguished career in the Navy during WWII and, via the GI Bill, graduated from UCLA as an accounting major, soon earning his C.P.A. certificate. A great team!

#### DOUG NEWTON: VP, WAYS & MEANS

Doug Newton was raised in Culver City and

While there are way too many fabulous volunteers to mention in this short column, I do want everyone to know that their work at the ARC is very much appreciated. I must state, however, that without Steve Rose and Fred Yglesias helping out just about every Saturday, the ARC would still have our collections in boxes. I also want to thank Louise Coffee-Webb for all her tireless work on organizing and cataloging the MGM and Fiesta costumes, and thanks to our out-going President Cathy Zermeno and her die-hard Thursday crew for their never-ending work in cataloging the collections that the Saturday crew set out and readied for them.

I also want to thank CC Mayor Alan Corlin for his continuous search for fixtures and office equipment we need such as light tables, shelving units, and other necessities that he found on Craig's list and other internet sites. Due to people like Mayor Corlin, Andy Weisman, myself and others, we have some great *free* items for the ARC that would have cost us tens of thousands of dollars.

I know our new ARC Chairs, Martha and Sol Sigall, will do a fabulous job of continuing the work we started just a short time ago. Thank you again for giving me the experience of serving as ARC Chair – and know that you will have my support in the future.

"Happy New Year" to all!

~ Robin

---

happily claims fame to being part of the Newton Plumbing "clan." (Cousin Steve Newton is also a CCHS member.) Currently, Doug is the General Manager of the historic Culver Hotel and is overseeing its renovations to match the burgeoning downtown Culver City hotspots. He and wife Lynda have been married for 32 years and have a daughter, Shana Newton, who is the general manager of Louise's Restaurant in Santa Monica – it runs in the family!

#### JEANNE CONKLIN: SECRETARY

Though born in San Francisco, Jeanne Conklin, has lived in the L.A. area for most of her life and in Culver City since 1974 with her husband Ken. She has worked in various positions as secretary, administrative assistant and chiropractic assistant. For many years, Jeanne has served on the board of directors of a support group for a facility for the developmentally disabled in Glendale where her own daughter lived happily until her passing in 2000. The Conklins also have a son who lives with his wife and two sons in nearby Torrance. Jeanne is also a volunteer docent for Las Angelitas del Pueblo, giving tours at El Pueblo Historical Monument (Olvera Street).

#### TAMELA "TAMI" ESKRIDGE: TREASURER

Tami Eskridge has been married to her husband Chuck (of the Culver City "Eskridges") for 32 years, and have two children and three grandchildren. She spent 30 years working at Eastman Kodak in Hollywood, starting in film splicing, moving to payroll and accounting, and becoming a field sales rep. Chuck's work compliments hers as he has been a motion picture set and sign painter for the past 40 years. And, for the last 9 years, Tami has competed in the LA Marathon, now in training for the Long Beach Marathon in October. ###

## 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)
_____ Family Member (\$25)	_____ Individual Lifetime Member (\$250)	_____ Family Lifetime Member (\$500)
	_____ Youth Member (\$5)	

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Mailing Address: (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **The Culver City Historical Society** and mail to

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