

# Exploring Hollywood's Historic Neighborhoods

The Lasky-DeMille Barn has been a witness to Hollywood's history and development for over 110 years. For 25 years it sat at the corner of Selma Avenue and Vine Street in the heart of Hollywood's turn of the century residential district. It spent the next 50 years on the premises of Paramount Studios. The area surrounding its current 30-year location is rich with other historic sites. Surrounding the Lasky-DeMille Barn lies a microcosm of Hollywood architecture and cultural sites whose presence and contributions to the community are sometimes overlooked. Nestled on upper Highland Avenue are several properties whose stories have enriched the lives of residents and visitors from the 1920s to the present. On the hills to the east side is Whitley Heights, a National Register District and a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. To the west side is the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Park, part of the Hollywood Heights neighborhood. Half a block to the south at 2035 North Highland Avenue is Hollywood Post No. 43 American Legion Memorial Clubhouse, which many of you visited for our May program celebrating the Hollywood Canteen. At 2000 North Highland Avenue is Roman Gardens. And, of course, let's not forget the internationally recognized Hollywood Bowl.

## Whitley Heights

This hillside neighborhood, platted in the early 1900s by H. J. Whitley, was home to "movie stars" before the development of Beverly Hills. Its distinctive Spanish architecture and expansive views led it to become one of Hollywood's most elite enclaves. See the winter 2011 edition of the Hollywood Heritage Newsletter ([www.HollywoodHer-](http://www.HollywoodHer-)

itage.org) for more information on one of our most significant historic neighborhoods.

## Highland-Camrose Bungalow Park

Developed within the same time period as Whitley Heights at a more modest scale, the Highland-Camrose bungalows were designed between 1916 and 1923 by the Taylor Brothers and Lee Campbell as residences for employees of movie studios. The Hollywood Bowl, Whitley Heights, Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village and Hollywood Heights are located on land that was once a portion of the Rancho La Brea, a Mexican land grant. One of the new tracts was called the Hollywood Ocean View Tract and portions of the tract became Whitley Heights and Outpost, developed primarily by Whitley, Charles E. Toberman and others. The "village" originally had 14 individual California bungalow buildings built in the Craftsman Style. Their simple physical characteristics reflected a lifestyle that was supposed to invoke harmony with nature, restfulness and simplicity. The houses were meant to be durable, comfortable and charming, composed of natural materials that were economic and required low maintenance.



*This is one of the restored houses in The Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village, which is adjacent to the Hollywood Bowl and serves as a picnic area before Bowl events.*

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

One of the most significant aspects of the Highland-Camrose bungalows is the way they were sited. While most bungalow courts have tightly organized houses oriented around simple courtyard spaces, the Highland-Camrose Bungalows were scattered around a very large site with several of the bungalows oriented onto the adjacent streets. The oldest, a Dutch Colonial Revival built in 1906, was joined by 13 smaller residences.

In the 1980s, the bungalows had fallen into disrepair and were beset by vandals and neglect. In house after house, windows were boarded up, doors were broken and shrubbery was dying. Vandals had set fire to one cottage. Inside another, an oak mantel and lead glass cupboard doors were missing.

On April 23, 1985, in response to concerns from neighbors and Hollywood Heritage, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission declared the property Historic Cultural Monument No. 291. On March 19, 1989, the bungalow village was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The County of Los Angeles took over the property from a developer shortly thereafter.

On October 3, 1989, a group which included representatives of Whitley Heights, Jeffrey Chusid (representing Hollywood Heritage) and Fran Offenhauser (co-founder of Hollywood Heritage, representing Hollywood Heights) created a stabilization plan for the property. Just months later, The Highland-Camrose/Hollywood Bowl Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report outlined the reuse of the property by the Hollywood Bowl for a passive park. The park's features were planned to include picnic spaces, walking paths and open space to serve Hollywood Bowl attendees and the

*continued on page 4*

## President's Message

# Summertime in Hollywood

by Bryan Cooper



I can't believe that summer is already upon us! Just last week Hollywood Heritage wrapped up another successful season of *Evening @ the Barn* with a sold-out *Celebration of Republic*

*Pictures*. I would personally like to thank everyone at Hollywood Heritage who contributed time and effort in making this a joyous tribute to that unsung studio. We'll be returning in the fall with another exciting roster of events, including the much-anticipated 100th Anniversary of the Lasky-DeMille Barn.

Although we'll be taking a break from programs at the Barn, there are still a lot of wonderful activities out there for you Hollywood locals... many of them taking place outdoors where folks can enjoy the balmy weather that is the envy of everyone. Our neighbors at the Hollywood Bowl and the Ford Amphitheater will of course be offering a star-filled selection of concerts. But it doesn't stop there. Our own Randy Haberkamp has programmed two legendary films, *Chicago* (1928) and *Peter Pan* (1924) for this summer's *Silents Under the Stars* at the beautiful Paramount Ranch in Agoura. See the article on page 7. You'll want to mark your calendar now for these very special screenings!

I've also gotten an inside scoop that the Echo Park Film Society will be on the road to better serve our own community and facilitate exchanges with communities beyond the boundaries of Echo Park. Their *Filmmobile* programs will focus on free film screenings in non-traditional venues (parking lots, vacant lots, parks, etc.) for the general public, and free filmmaking workshops. Angelinos are invited to discover and explore their changing urban landscape when the *Filmmobile* projects an array of classic films at (actual or implied) cinematic locations across the city. For more information on EPFC programs and services, please go to [www.echo-parkfilmcenter.org](http://www.echo-parkfilmcenter.org) and [www.filmmobile.org](http://www.filmmobile.org).

My last recommendation would be to pay a visit to The Autry Museum in Griffith Park. As part of their exhibit *Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic*, the Hollywood Heritage Museum loaned a program from the opening of the *Ten Commandments* at Grauman's Egyptian,

and a copy of the letter of agreement between Jacob Stern, then owner of the stable built by Robert Northam in 1901, and Cecil B. DeMille as representative of the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company. The agreement verifies the oft-misquoted rental amount on the "barn" as \$250.00 a month. In addition to the letter of agreement is a copy of the original lease agreement between the Lasky Company and the Burns & Revier Studios, the original lessees of the barn from Mr. Stern. History For Hire, the company, who has duplicated documents for the National Parks Service's Harper Ferry National Landmark site, and for two exhibitions at the Louisiana State Capitol, as well as products for the La Plaza de Cultura y Artes here in Los Angeles, made the duplicated documents.

Currently, the Hollywood Heritage Museum has artifacts from the history of the Egyptian Theatre on display in their lobby and we plan to add new materials to those cases in conjunction with our big anniversary. As you can see I am *VERY* excited about that coming celebration, so you can be sure you'll be getting a play by play from me in future President's messages. But let's just say that DeMille's rich film legacy will be honored in a grand way befitting the master showman himself! In the meantime, I urge you to get out there and enjoy the summer, dear friends... I'll see you in the fall!

**Hollywood Heritage's  
Hollywood Blvd.  
Walking Tour  
Saturday mornings  
Phone (323) 465-6716  
to book your tour.**



[www.hollywoodheritage.org](http://www.hollywoodheritage.org)

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## Paul R. Williams: Classic Hollywood Style

Karen E. Hudson, granddaughter of renowned African American architect Paul R. Williams, has published a new book of this prolific architect's most spectacular houses (with photography by Benny Chan). Williams, often referred to as "architect to the stars" was appointed to the first City Planning Commission of Los Angeles in 1920, became the first African American member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1923 and its first Fellow in 1957. Williams moved among many worlds, with such celebrity clients as Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Tyrone Power, and Barbara Stanwyck, as well as clients who made Hollywood run behind the scenes, not to mention members of Los Angeles high society. The book covers 22 homes in Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Bel Air, Hancock Park, Los Feliz and the Hollywood Hills.

The Hollywood Hills property is the Victor Rossetti Residence, No. 915 on the City of Los Angeles' Historic-Cultural Monument list. A Spanish Colonial Revival-style residence located at 2188 N. Ponet Drive, the house features a red clay tile roof, and a smooth stucco exterior with an impressive arched entryway. Designed in 1928, the two-and-a half story home was built for \$47,000. The L-shaped residence has many features that define Williams' style - a hipped roof; multi-paned fixed and casement windows; arches; and extensive use of ornamental iron work inside and out. Window grills and balconies give the home an exotic look and feeling. Williams added many of the luxurious extras he would become famous for, including decorative doors, coffered and stenciled ceilings, a dramatic two-story entryway and a sweeping staircase, a library, intercom system and a wooden elevator car connecting the garage to all levels of the house. He later designed a two-car garage, as well as another porch in 1937.

Williams made a significant contribution to the architecture of Los Angeles; his work for the motion picture community is among his best. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc. publishes the 239-page coffee table book, *Paul R. Williams: Classic Hollywood Style*.



## Being Green: The Role of Historic Preservation

The greenest building is the one you don't demolish. Every year, approximately one billion square feet of buildings are demolished and replaced with new construction in the United States. The Brookings Institution projects that some 82 billion square feet of existing space will be demolished and replaced between 2005 and 2030—roughly one-quarter of today's existing building stock.

Why does this matter to those concerned with Hollywood Preservation? The Preservation Green Lab of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has recently released a report, *The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse*. Launched in March of 2009, the Seattle-Based Preservation Green Lab advances research that explores the value that older buildings bring to their communities, and pioneers policy solutions that make it easier to reuse and green older and historic buildings. A copy of the report can be viewed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation website (<http://www.preservationnation.org> and search for *The Greenest Building*).

The report concludes that building reuse almost always offers environmental savings over demolition and new construction. This research provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of the potential environmental impact reductions associated with building reuse. Reusing existing buildings can offer an important means of avoiding unnecessary carbon outlays and help communities achieve their carbon reduction goals in the near term. The study had three key objectives:

- 1) To compute and compare the life-cycle environmental impacts of building undergoing rehabilitation to those generated by the demolition of existing buildings and their replacement with new construction.
- 2) To determine which stage of a building's life (i.e. materials production, construction, occupancy) contributes most significantly to its environmental impacts, when those impacts occur, and what drives those impacts
- 3) To assess the influence of building typology, geography, energy performance, electricity-grid mix, and life span on environmental impacts throughout a building's life cycle.

Answers to these questions quantify the arguments made by preservationists that historic buildings have economic benefits as

well as quality of life value for communities. Key findings in the report note that:

Building reuse almost always yields fewer environmental impacts than new construction when comparing buildings of similar size and functionality. Reuse-based impact reductions may seem small when considering a single building. However, the absolute carbon-related impact reductions can be substantial when these results are scaled across the building stock of a city.

Reuse of buildings with an average level of energy performance consistently offers immediate climate-change impact reductions compared to more energy-efficient new construction.

Materials matter: The quality, quantity and type of replacement materials used in a building renovation, as opposed to repair of existing materials, can reduce, or even negate, the benefits of reuse. Better tools are needed to aid designers in selecting materials with the least environmental impact.

Hollywood Heritage's Preservation Issues Committee advocates the adoptive reuse of Hollywood's building stock. This approach helps to preserve the historic look and feel of Hollywood.

## Hollywood Economic Development Summit

Thanks to the generosity of Crescent Heights, the owner and developer of the Hollywood Palladium site, Hollywood Heritage was an exhibitor at the Hollywood Economic Development Summit 2013 sponsored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. The conference was held on June 18th at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Mary Pickford Center to focus on what can be done to attract more retail establishments and businesses associated with the entertainment industry to Hollywood.

Hollywood Heritage members staffed a table, telling visiting developers about the advantages of adaptive reuse of Hollywood's buildings and how Hollywood Heritage can assist them to that end, along with the economic incentives available for historic preservation in Hollywood.

Hollywood Heritage's booth also exhibited Cecil B. DeMille memorabilia relating to the Lasky-DeMille Barn, illustrating the concept of adaptive reuse. Visitors were given information about our organization and museum and encouraged to join and attend our programs.

*Neighborhoods* — continued from page 1  
neighborhood surrounding the park. The park project retained and rehabilitated seven of the Highland-Camrose bungalows. Seven historic buildings and several non-historic buildings were demolished as part of the adopted plan. This was not the hoped-for outcome, and the neighborhoods and Hollywood Heritage fought hard to preserve more structures. Preservation was still a fairly new issue in Hollywood then; with today's sensitivity the outcome might have been more in keeping with current practice.

In 1996, the property opened as The Highland-Camrose Bungalow Park, named in part as a tribute to Supervisor Ed Edelman's many years of service to the city and county of Los Angeles. Consisting now of seven tree-shaded California bungalows surrounded by a park and picnic grounds, the 1920s compound still evokes its classic Los Angeles residential building type. Levin & Associates Inc., in association with renowned landscape architect Emmet L. Wemple, integrated the renovated bungalows into a walled, tree-shaded park with terraced, river-rock retaining walls, and a new steel and wood pavilion on the footprint of the 1906 house for outdoor events and performances. The vine-covered wall on Highland Avenue, which encloses the park, directly across from the Lasky-DeMille Barn, is built out of gray, green and black ceramic-faced concrete block, with inserts of illuminated glass blocks. The design of the wall was inspired by a musical score.

## **Hollywood Post 43 American Legion Memorial Club House**

Down the block, at 2035 North Highland Avenue, is the Hollywood Post 43 American Legion Memorial Club House, Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument 462. Designated in November 1989, it is one of the finest examples of the Egyptian Revival style in Los Angeles. The building was designed in 1929 by the notable Los Angeles firm of Weston & Weston and represents perhaps their best work.

The Hollywood American Legion Memorial Club House is a two story reinforced concrete structure, rectangular in plan and set back from the street behind a wide flight of steps. The primary façade on Highland Avenue is symmetrical and organized around a central entry with an elaborately ornamented horizontal band above the first story. The second story is set back to form the base of a

low tower capped by a copper-clad pyramidal roof. This roof is the most prominent architectural feature of the building and, with the almost complete lack of windows, adds to its sense of massiveness and geometric simplicity. Ornamental features include a series of inscriptions, decorative tile work, an elaborate door surround, and a bas relief panel below the roof. The heraldic imagery of the tile work is complemented by flags and a cannon.

The building is still occupied by its original tenant and still functions as a private social gathering place. The building's location at 2035 North Highland Avenue, coupled with its extraordinary design, has made it a strong visual landmark of the community for many years. For more information on Hollywood American Legion Post 43, go to [www.hollywoodpost43.org](http://www.hollywoodpost43.org). Also see Mary Mallory's blog: <http://ladailymirror.com/2013/05/06/mary-mallory-hollywood-heights-the-hollywood-american-legion-the-house-that-boxing-built/>

## **Roman Gardens**

Roman Gardens, also known as Villa Valentino, is Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument 397. It is south of the Barn at 2000 N. Highland Ave. Designated in 1988, it is described in *Courtyard Housing in Los Angeles*: as "one of the most sumptuous courts in Los Angeles." It was built in 1926 by architects Walter S. and F. Pierpont Davis. These two



*Roman Gardens, sometimes referred to as Villa Valentino, is on Highland Avenue, south of the Hollywood Heritage Museum.* Photo courtesy of Steven L. Vaught

architects designed a number of other revival-style courts in Los Angeles which characterized Hollywood in the 1920s, but this eclectic yet cohesive group of buildings with

distinctive atmosphere was a personal project.

Roman Gardens is an example of an architectural type which creates an indoor-outdoor living space. It was designed with an appreciation for the Southern California climate, is an indigenous and integral part of the Los Angeles landscape, and was constructed with values and objectives no longer common in multi-family housing.

The façade of the building, which is set behind a well-planted forecourt, displays an axial formation through the positioning of a single wooden tower at the northwest corner. The tower itself is essentially non-functional, an example of one of the many playful architectural details. Italian, Spanish, and Moorish influences can be seen in the bas-relief medallions, Roman busts, and animal heads, which outwardly project the exterior walls. The villa is also rich in patterns and textures through the use of hand-made tiles, wood-beamed ceilings, reflecting pools, brick pavements, French doors, and decorative grillwork. Inside the main gate is a series of three open courts that offset through the property. The first of these, which is contrastingly vaulted and open-aired, functions as both a vestibule and as a focus for surrounding living units. The middle court, lined with mature trees and discreetly placed terraces, converges as a larger "piazza." In the last court, a star-shaped pool set in a diminutive enclosure, creates a third type of space, one that is both informal and intimate.

The interiors of the apartments are uniquely different from one another. The features common to all units—fireplaces and high ceilings—are presented with variety. Layouts range from two-story maisonettes to ground floor apartments with private, inner courtyards.

Like many Hollywood properties, fantasy and myth surrounds Roman Gardens. Local lore associates film legend Rudolph Valentino with the building. Although he lived up the hill in Whitley Heights, and then in Beverly Hills, Valentino had already died at the time of its construction. *Courtyard Housing* perpetuates the link: "Although originally the building was called Roman Gardens, for years it has been referred to as the Villa Valentino because of the insistent popular legend that Rudolph Valentino used it as the center of his amorous activities."

## **The Hollywood Bowl**

The Hollywood Bowl itself is now located in a County of Los Angeles enclave and thus is not eligible to be a designated Cultural Heritage Monument in the City of Los Angeles. Because of alterations to the vari-

ous bandshells and other outbuildings over the years, its architectural integrity has been somewhat compromised. However, its significance in American history, architecture, engineering, and culture is still present in the landscape, a collection of buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

The name Hollywood Bowl does not refer to the dome-shaped band shell but is actually a reference to the natural bowl-shaped area surrounded by the Hollywood Hills, originally known as the Daisy Dell. Christine Wetherill Stevenson and others originally purchased the site as a location to perform a religious production called the Pilgrimage Play. When the community sought to expand the use of the Dell for orchestral and cultural uses, Stevenson built the Pilgrimage theatre on the opposite hillside, now known as the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. Community leaders, including Artie Mason Carter and Charles Toberman, went on to create the Hollywood Bowl. The first large-scale production at the Bowl was the Easter Sunrise Service of 1921. On July 11, 1922, the Hollywood Bowl officially opened as the summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where the orchestra performed under a simple awning to an audience on wooden benches. In 1926, the landscape was re-graded to create better seating, but it had the negative effect of reducing the natural acoustic advantage of the location.

The Hollywood Bowl had several band shells in its first few years, including two developed by Lloyd Wright, son of Frank Lloyd Wright, before the arched dome, created by Allied Architects became a model for outdoor stages around the world. The 1929 shell included upgrades by Frank Gehry to solve its acoustical issues over the years. This fourth shell was replaced in 2003 with a new, larger one, designed by the architectural firm Hodgetts and Fung.

The entrance to the Hollywood Bowl on Highland Avenue is adorned with a sculpture of the three muses by George Stanley, best known for designing the Oscar statuette.

The County of Los Angeles is currently exploring the listing of the Hollywood Bowl property in the National Register of Historic Places. This would give one of the nation's most famous cultural venues honorific status befitting its significance as a cultural Hollywood landmark.

Want to explore further? Go north to the

John Anson Ford Theater or west into the Hollywood Heights neighborhood. Can you find the elevator?

## Working Behind the Scenes

Meet our summer intern, Dan Herrick. Dan comes to us courtesy of the Heritage Conservation Program in the USC School of Architecture where he is studying for a Master's Degree in Heritage Conservation.

He will be assisting the Hollywood Heritage Preservation Issues Committee in a number of different areas: maintaining the watch list, including mapping of current development projects in Hollywood and preparing responses to public inquiries; preparation of a briefing book for newly elected councilman Mitch O'Farrell and



updating materials on preservation for new board members; drafting policy statements, including ones on relocation and another on the context of studio preservation and re-development; assisting with the packaging of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Lasky-DeMille Barn.

As a motion picture enthusiast, Dan is thrilled to be working in Hollywood. He appreciates its importance to Californians as well as to people across the globe and he is excited about helping Hollywood Heritage in preserving its historic environment. Dan grew up in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he earned a BA degree in Latin American History. He has also done volunteer work for the Calgary Heritage Initiative, an advocacy group similar to Hollywood Heritage.

Dan loves to ski and snowboard and after his summer internship, he will be focusing his studies on the snowbound slopes in southern California and analyzing how they are part of our cultural landscape.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In grateful recognition of their generous support, we sincerely thank the following renewing members who have made contributions at the \$100 level and above as of July 1, 2013. Category titles are names of historic Hollywood Studios.

### **Kalem** \$250+

Anthony Slide  
Randy Van Ausdall

### **Triangle** \$100+

Alice M. Allen  
Leo & Dorothy Braudy  
Elizabeth & Richard Brill  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence H. Bulk  
Bert Cassan  
Johnathon Daugherty  
Morris Everett  
James Karen & Alba Francesca  
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## Welcome New Members!

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Denise Morse  
Shannon Muchow  
Erin Page  
Mario Prado  
Amy Putnam  
Steve Reeser  
Ranjit Sandhu  
Jo Spittles & Richard Shephard  
Jack Smith  
*Sunset Gower & Bronson Studios*  
Jean Taves  
Alan Van Gundy  
Woodrow Wise  
Elaine Mae Woo  
Rob Word

# Hollywood Heritage Ends Season

The season's last three *Evening @ the Barn* programs, before the Hollywood Bowl events dominate the parking lot for the summer, were shown to full-house crowds. Each featured food donated by board member Denise DeCarlo from her award-winning Grub Restaurant in Hollywood. A raffle with an interesting array of items conducted at each event raised money for Hollywood Heritage's growing acquisition fund, which will enhance the museum's collections.

## Hollywood Unknowns

So many people related to *Hollywood Unknowns* because they were one, or they had friends or relatives who acted as extras in a movie.



Hollywood Heritage board member Sue Slutzky poses with author Anthony Slide holding up one of the many books he has written. photo by Alan H. Simon

The April 10th *Evening @ the Barn* saw Anthony Slide entertain and educate the audience about the lives and careers of Hollywood extras, starting from the early silent era. The presentation included lots of vintage photos and a clip from the 1928 film, *Noah's Ark*, showing cascades of water pummeling hundreds of extras during the flood sequence.

Other topics discussed were: the Hollywood Studio Club (where young women with aspirations of working in the movies lived, including Marilyn Monroe and Kim Novak), the creation of Central Casting, the Hays Code, and famous scandals and tragedies.

Mr. Slide graciously donated his beautiful book, *Now Playing: Hand Painted Poster Art From the 1910s Through the 1950s*, as one of the raffle items. That prize made one lucky winner very happy!

The program, produced by board member Sue Slutzky, was a fun, engaging evening with the audience eagerly participating by asking

questions at the conclusion of the slide show. Following the formal program, Mr. Slide signed his book for the waiting crowd.

## Hollywood Canteen @ Hollywood American Legion

The night of Wednesday, May 8th will long be remembered as one of Hollywood Heritage's most spectacular evenings, combining poignant stories with entertaining presentations in the lovely Art Deco Hollywood American Legion Post 43 building on Highland Ave. for *An Evening @ the American Legion - A Salute to the Hollywood Canteen*.

Gracious host, the American Legion, warmly greeted Hollywood Heritage members and guests to their striking building, permitting tours of the elegant facilities and their large archives at evening's conclusion. Patriotic music, costumes, and settings saluted the 1940s and America's call to war service throughout the festive event.

Special guests Mary Carlisle and Marsha Hunt received Honorary Lt. Colonel citations from the American Legion Post 43, before Hunt and Nancy Marlow gave touching reminiscences of their days serving at the Hollywood Canteen. A toe-tapping, crowd-pleasing video clip reel followed, saluting both the Hollywood and Stage Door Canteens.

Authors Bruce Torrence and Lisa Mitchell presented a fascinating, educational slide show revealing the history and importance of the Hollywood Canteen, concluding with book signing by Torrence and Mitchell of their *Hollywood Canteen, Where the Greatest Generation Danced with the Most Beautiful Girls in the World*. (available in the Hollywood Heritage



Authors Lisa Mitchell and Bruce Torrence display their book, *Hollywood Canteen*. photo by Alan H. Simon

Museum Store).

Guests lingered afterwards to drink in the nostalgic atmosphere, share in joyful camaraderie with Legion veterans, and tour the historic structure.

The program was produced by Hollywood Heritage president, Bryan Cooper, with board secretary Mary Mallory assisting. Thanks to the Hollywood American Legion for opening their doors and sharing such a wonderful event with us.

## Salute to Republic Pictures

The 2012-2013 *Evening @ the Barn* series wrapped up on June 12th at the Lasky-DeMille Barn with a star-studded tribute to Republic Pictures hosted by Hollywood Heritage President, Bryan Cooper. Nearly an hour's worth of film clips made for a perfect centerpiece to interviews by several legendary performers who all starred in Republic films during its fabled 24-year history.



Hollywood Heritage President Bryan Cooper with actress Peggy Stewart celebrating Republic Studios. photo by Alan H. Simon

Anne Jeffreys, Marjorie Lord, Ben Cooper, Dick Jones, Peggy Stewart, Mary Carlisle, Julietta "Tweeny" Canova and Fay McKenzie made in-person appearances to help celebrate the studio where many of them got their start in show business. In addition, members of studio head Herbert J. Yates' family shared stories about their famous relative. Karla Buhlman, President of Gene Autry Entertainment, talked about Autry's legacy with the organization as well as on-going efforts to preserve his films. Music was a keynote in the evening's program, highlighted by several western songs courtesy of Will Ryan and John Reynolds of the Cactus County Cowboys.

The foyer was loaded with memorabilia from Republic films and in the middle of the room, Hollywood Heritage board member

Denise DeCarlo of Grub Restaurant served up some delicious chili for a lot of hungry customers.

The program was co-produced by board president Bryan Cooper and board vice-president Richard Adkins, with many others contributing to the work.

Although it was a rather long jam-packed evening, many folks noted that it really was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see so much talent in one room. A big thank you to everyone on the Hollywood Heritage Museum Committee for making this wonderful evening possible!

## Movies to Watch This Summer

**T**his summer's *Silents Under the Stars* series is in its 26th year and screens at the Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills. Come early and bring a picnic dinner! Tickets available at the Ranch when you arrive: Hollywood Heritage members, \$5.00; general public, \$6.00; children under 12, \$3.00.

Live music accompanist Michael Mortilla will perform in this series. There will be surprise short subject shown preceding each feature. See details at [www.HollywoodHeritage.org/Silents/suts2013.html](http://www.HollywoodHeritage.org/Silents/suts2013.html)

**Sunday, July 21st – 8pm – *Chicago* (1928)**

Starring Phyllis Haver, Julia Faye, May Robinson and Eugene Palette. Directed by Frank Urson.

**Sunday, August 18th – 7:30pm – *Peter Pan* (1924).**

Starring Betty Bronson, Esther Ralston, Mary Brian, and Ernest Torrence. Directed by Herbert Brenon.



# Grauman's Chinese is Now the TCL Chinese Theatre

**H**ollywood Heritage, along with other preservation and community organizations, was present earlier this year at a press conference where the Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard was “re-named” the TCL Chinese Theatre. Chinese electronics company TCL paid \$5 million for the naming rights (for a period of 10 years) to the current owners of the Chinese Theatre. The money will be used for upgrades and preservation of the historic site in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The Office of Historic Resources for the City of Los Angeles is responsible for determining that all work on the Cultural Heritage Monument meets the Standards.



*A vintage postcard of the Grauman's Chinese Theatre at 6925 Hollywood Boulevard. From the collection of Joan and Alan Simon)*

The theatre's giant red Chinese pagoda exterior and 30-foot tall Chinese Dragon has become a symbol of the movie business. The Chinese Theatre, known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, opened in 1927 with the premiere of Cecil B. DeMille's *The King of Kings*. Hollywood showman Sid Grauman, along with partners that included silent screen stars Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, financed the \$2 million construction of the theatre designed by architect Raymond Kennedy. Grauman also built and owned the nearby Egyptian Theatre.

According to the Chinese Theatre website, the theatre's cultural links to China date back to its origins. During construction, permission had to be obtained from the U.S. government to import temple bells, pagodas, stone Heaven Dogs and other artifacts from China. Most of these pieces still decorate the ornate interior of the theatre lobby. Chinese poet and film director Moon Quon supervised a team of Chinese artisans that created many pieces of statuary in what would be-

come the Forecourt to the Stars.

Over the years, ownership and operation of the theatre has passed through many hands. In the 1970s, it was renamed “Mann's Chinese Theatre” in deference to then-owner Ted Mann and the Mann Theatres chain. It was renamed Grauman's after a joint venture of Warner Bros. and Paramount Pictures' parent company Viacom Inc. purchased ownership of the movie palace in 2001. Producers Elie Samaha and Donald Kushner purchased the theatre from the studio joint venture in 2011, with the intent to restore it to its former glory as a social hub and preeminent site of movie premieres.

In 1968 it was designated Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Number 55. The theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributor of the Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment District. In addition to movie premieres, it has also hosted Oscar ceremonies. Its tradition of having movie stars immortalize their handprints and footprints in

the concrete in front of the theatre has made it an immense tourist attraction, a “must-see” for visitors from all over the world.

After conversations with the theatre's current owners, Hollywood Heritage submitted a letter to the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission supporting modifications to the theatre's interior. Because the owner's plans to accommodate the IMAX film format will alter features that were altered during previous renovations, it is expected that any changes will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. In the letter, Hollywood Heritage also recommended that a historic monitor be tasked with reviewing and approving ongoing plans, building department submittals, and construction.

Overall, we support the owner's attempt to maintain the theatre as a viable presentation house for motion pictures and look forward to working with them in the future as they continue their rehabilitation.



## Mark Your Calendar

### July:

Screening *Chicago* (1928); *Silents Under the Stars*: **Paramount Ranch, July 21 – 8pm**

### August:

Screening *Peter Pan* (1924); *Silents Under the Stars*: **Paramount Ranch, August 18 – 7:30pm**

### October:

*A Tribute to Julia Adams*; *Evening @ the Barn*: **October 9 – 7:30pm**

Holiday Party, Sons of the Desert Tent screenings at the Lasky-DeMille Barn. **Oct. 10, 7:15pm**

### November:

*Beverly Hills Confidential*; *Evening @ the Barn*: **November 13 – 7:30pm**

### December:

*Lasky-DeMille Barn Centennial*; *Evening @ the Barn*: **December 11 – 7:30pm**

Holiday Party, Sons of the Desert Tent screenings at the Lasky-DeMille Barn. **Dec. 12, 7:15pm**

Hollywood Heritage Membership Meeting and Holiday Party – **December 15** – at the Lasky-DeMille Barn.

PRESERVING OUR HOLLYWOOD HERITAGE FOR MORE THAN 22 YEARS

- Wattles Mansion and Gardens • Hollywood Heritage Museum/Lasky-DeMille Barn •
- Silent Society: Motion Picture History and Preservation • Architectural Preservation, Advocacy, and Education •



## Membership Application

**YES!** I would like to become a member of Hollywood Heritage, Inc.

**\$2,500 Majestic \$1,000 Keystone \$500 Bison \$250 Kalem  
\$100 Triangle\*\* \$50 Household \$35 Individual  
\$20 Senior (65+)/Student (Full Time)**

\*\*Join at the \$100 Triangle level or above, and receive a 24"x36" collectable reproduction poster, *A Map of Hollywood from the Best Surveys of the Time* (c. 1928).

### Membership Benefits Include:

- Free admission to the Hollywood Heritage Museum for two adults and two children.
- Ten percent discount at the Museum Store.
- Advance notification of special member programs.
- Discounts on Silent Society film programs at the Hollywood Heritage Museum, UCLA, and the Paramount Ranch.
- Quarterly **Hollywood Heritage Newsletter**.

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