

30TH ANNUAL MUSIC BOX STEPS DAY

OCTOBER 19, 2024

SPONSORED BY

**THE SILVER LAKE
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Co-sponsors included

- **CD13 office of Hugo Soto-Martinez**
- **Claytivity Pottery Studio**
- **Domino's Pizza**
- **Mack Sennett Studios**
- **MOTA**
- **RYDA/MYSA at 3400 Sunset**
- **Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce**
- **United Bread & Pastry**
- **YUMMY.COM**

The event was dedicated to
NINA SORKIN

For her bountiful spirit and tireless service to SLIA and the community at large. She passed away in May at age 80.



The Music Box Steps are the iconic filming location of the 1932 Oscar-winning short “The Music Box” starring comic legends Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy, and Music Box Steps Day celebrates them all.





Vince thanked SLIA board members and others who helped put on the event, then introduced some of the people most responsible for getting the new sign approved.

Stan Taffel,
President of the
Cinecon Classic Film
Festival and Grand
Sheik of the
Hollywood Party Tent
of the Sons of the
Desert, was a major
contributor to the sign
effort and introduced
a very special guest.





Stan Laurel's Great Granddaughter, **Cassidy Cook!**

Cassidy said she hadn't seen the Steps since she was a little girl and didn't know about Music Box Steps Day until Stan Taffel invited her. And she's thrilled to be a part of it!

Regina Mallare,
Field Deputy for CD
13 Councilmember
Hugo Soto-Martinez,
also played a major
role in getting us the
sign and started the
countdown to the
unveiling.





Yay



Team



THE MUSIC BOX STEPS

ICONIC FILMING LOCATION
OF THE 1932 OSCAR WINNING
SHORT "THE MUSIC BOX"
STARRING COMIC LEGENDS
STAN LAUREL & OLIVER HARDY

**A near duplicate of the actual sign with one glitch. Can you spot it?
(Hint: It's not in the wording.)**



Celebrants left to right: Laurel look-alike **Rick Rogers**, Hardy look-alike **Joe Hanna**, Vince, Cassidy's daughter **Lucy Cook**, Cassidy, Regina, and Stan Taffel



Left to right: Vince (w/L&H face mask), SLIA board member **Gale Jaffe**, Hardy look-alike Joe Hanna, SLIA board member **Renee Dawson**, Laurel look-alike **John Mackey**, and SLIA board members **Mark L. Hummer** and **Genelle LeVin**

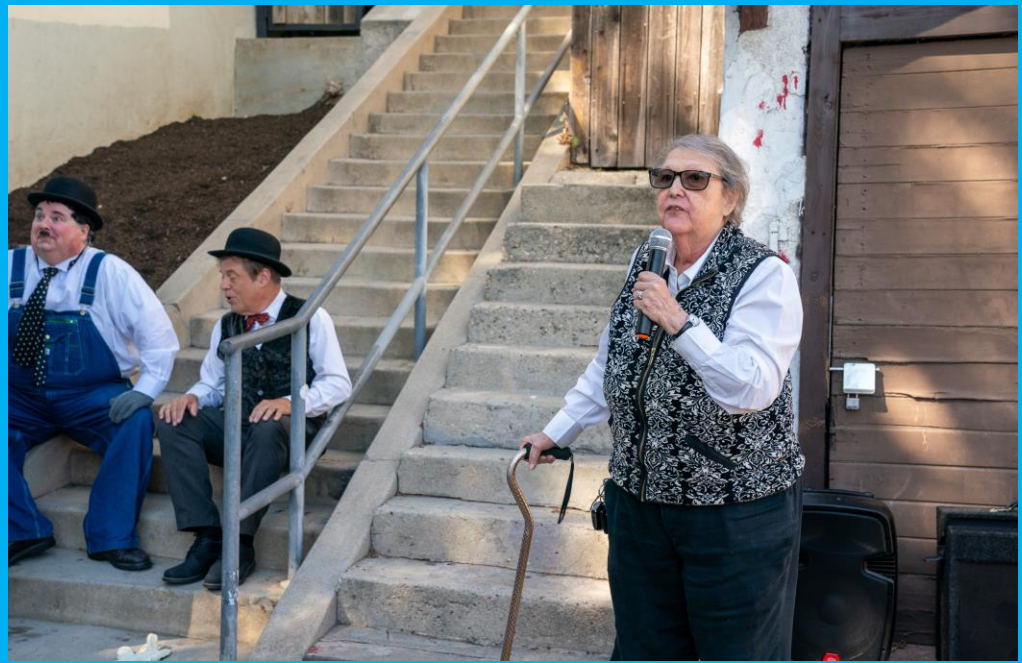


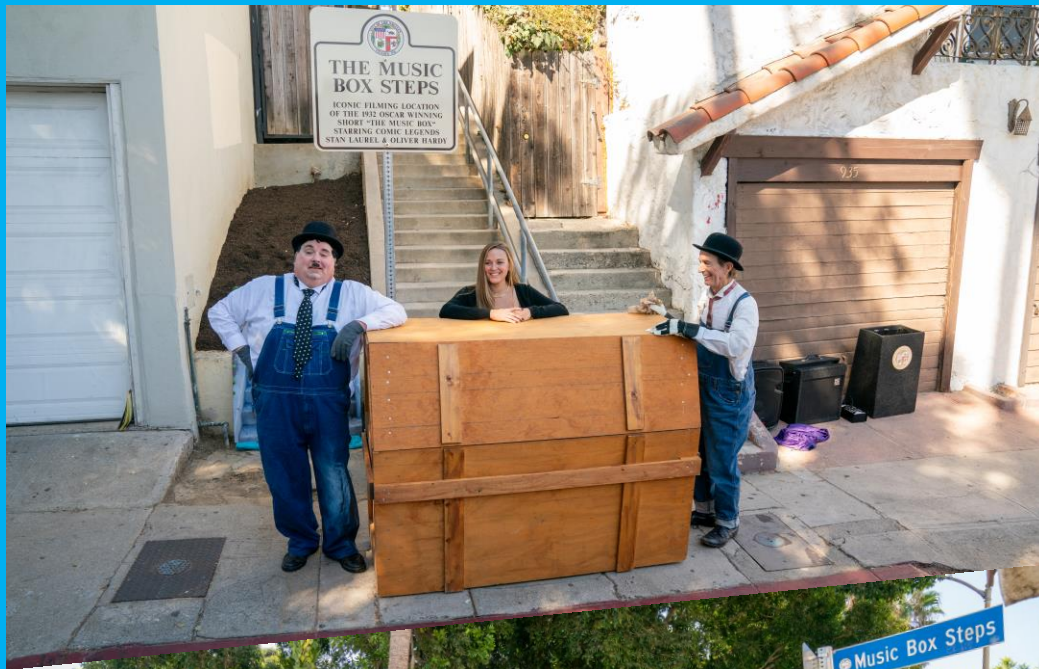
Certificates of appreciation were awarded to SLIA and to Vince by CD13's and Nithya Raman's CD4 Council Offices, and from State Assemblymember Wendy Carillo of the 52nd district. **Jennifer Hull** stood in for Raman.



Another award from CD13 was presented to Genelle LeVin, as a founding member of SLIA and for her long service as SLIA president.

Jackie Goldberg, former Assemblymember, CD13 Councilmember, and retiring LAUSD President, told the story she'd told at several Music Box Steps Days, about when she lived next door to the Steps without realizing their significance. Until one summer evening she showed a 16mm print of "The Music Box" to some neighborhood kids on a sheet in the park across the street -- when suddenly they all realized that the film they were watching had been shot in their own back yard!





Then the **Music Box** itself arrived, courtesy of its builder, Ed Bell, and conservator, Stan Taffel, and Cassidy offered to help the Boys lug it up the Steps😊

Next it was across the street to Laurel and Hardy Park, graced with another newly installed sign, for the rest of the festivities.



The man in the middle is SLIA super-supporter **Henric Nieminen**

There were several screenings, in a tent in the park, of Billy Gilbert's personal 16mm print of "The Music Box." (Gilbert plays the stuffy professor in the film.)



The film was projected by Stan Taffel on his personal xenon projector.



A magic show featuring the Great Reendini (aka **Reno Goodale**) was, as always, a big hit.



Mark Hummer's derby hats were also a hit, and Genelle got a piece of the action.



Old-time music was provided by the Happy Neighbor Club, left to right: **Joe Wack**, **Katy Croshier**, and **Kurt MacGinnis**.





The band
also
teamed up
with the
Boys



for a
Laurel &
Hardy-style
vaudeville
routine.

There was an
Arts table for the
young and old
and everyone in-
between.



And a Silver Lake
Neighborhood Council
table, staffed by
Debbie Slater,
for encouraging
community
involvement.





There was an ample spread: pizza from Domino's, empanadas from United Bread & Pastry, donuts from Mom's Donuts & Chinese Food To Go, and bottled water from Yummy market. The goodies were served by Gale Jaffe, in the white cap, and other Good Samaritans, and all was overseen by the Maître D (though he's not visible here): **Milton Argueta!**



Then the Grand Finale, the **RAFFLE**, run by Mark, with a hand from Gale and Vince, and dedicated to the late **Rusty Millar**, who regularly purchased most of the tickets and – no surprise – won most of the prizes!



People were able to choose which prizes they hoped to win by placing their ticket stubs in paper bags with the prize's name on them.





Besides 2 signed copies of books by **Michael Locke** and Vince, the major prizes consisted of gift certificates from some of the best restaurants and cafes in Silver Lake and vicinity:

- **Breakfast Republic**
- **Café De La Tierra**
- **Coffee Memes**
- **El Condor Mexican Restaurant**
- **Masa of Echo Park**
- **Michelangelo Ristorante**
- **And the Grand Prize: two \$100 gift cards from Pine & Crane**



And who should win one of the Grand Prizes but Vince's good friend **Clint Burkett**! But Clint lives in Leucadia, near San Diego, so what was he doing vying for a restaurant in Silver Lake? The question is answered in the photo!

And the crowning touch: a celebratory cake from United Bread & Pastry, that says it all!



That's all Folks, until we meet again!



HONORABLE MENTION

Although they couldn't make it to the event, SLIA President **Scott Plante**, Vice President **Stephanie Vendig**, and Secretary **Barbara Ringuette** played important roles in the preparation for it.

Joe Pickard, as he's done for years, supplied the all-important electricity for the projection and sound.

Photographer **Colin Remas Brown** snapped the superb images that fit so well into the slide show.

CD13 Field Deputies **Emma Howard** and **David Mai** contributed mightily behind the scenes.

Others who provided invaluable assistance include **Dave Bermudez**, **Earl Hough**, and **Alan Michaud**.

AND A FINAL HIGH-FIVE

“To all you wonderful people out there in the dark,” and in the sunlight, who attended the 30th Annual Music Box Steps Day and helped make it extra special!



Gloria Swanson in “Sunset Blvd” (1950)