



THE LAFAYETTE

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Susan and David Phinney

by *Thea Robertshaw*

It's amazing that these two nomads met. Their common interest in singing eventually gave them a lucky chance meeting. Both David and Susan traveled extensively as children due to their parent's occupations. Susan, in 1971, went with her family to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. At some point in their storytelling I realized that they had both been to some of the same places, but at different times, and at different ages, and of course never met.

While vacationing in Europe David, Susan and her family were driving through the countryside in Slovenia. At this point in her story David lights up and interjects *his* experience. "A waitress in Travisio, Italy told us to go to Bled, Slovenia. That was such a beautiful drive through the lush green countryside right out of National Geographic. And in the midst of this beauty, blown-out and rusted factories scattered through the countryside." Susan recalls amidst these surreal images, "There was a mural of Roger Rabbit." This was the place where they had the best pizza and French fries in the world while looking at a euphoric scene of swans on the lake, and across the lake, a castle on top of the cliffs. Susan remembers the great meal—all you could eat with wonderful wine for a nominal price.

Susan's family, consisting of her three brothers and herself, also vacationed at the foot of the great pyramid in Egypt. Susan really liked living in Saudi Arabia, in an American compound with 500 American students at her school. She was in the Girl Guides, the international organization of the Girl Scouts. They would meet with the Girl Guides of Saudi Arabia and these girls would share their music and dance and serve them a meal. Later the Girl Guides would travel to Athens Greece to share their experiences with the Girl Guides of Greece. Susan has fun memories of these times and places. She says, "I learned a lot and became more accepting of the world. I was exposed to other cultures and because of that I have a

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FROM THE OFFICE

The Peaceful Kingdom

By *Sharon Hays*

Why do people choose to live in a community? Because it's neat and orderly, or because your association's fiduciary vigilance guarantees that property values will not go down?

When you buy into a community association, you are agreeing to abide by certain restrictions and regulations.

This doesn't always go over well. For most people, their home is not only their single most important investment, it's also their castle. In an association, the board of directors is charged with the perplexing dilemma of enforcing these restrictions and regulations while at the same time respecting the feelings of each resident and enabling freedom of personal expression. A fine line that is not always easy to walk.

Here are some pearls of wisdom to make living in a community association a memorable experience for everyone.

BE A GOOD HOMEOWNER

1. Read your CC&R's and Rules and Regulations documents when you move in and review them often.
2. Follow the rules
3. Pay your assessments on time. (Assessments are late after the 15th of each month.)
4. Attend board meetings
5. Read the newsletter
6. Serve on a committee
7. Serve on the board
8. Don't expect someone else to do it for you.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

1. Respect your neighbor
2. Curb thy dog!!
3. Don't play the stereo too loud
4. Clean up after yourself
5. If there is a problem, talk about it – direct conversation is more effective than banging on a wall.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Committee Update

By Bill Guzik

Historical Committee

The Lafayette Historical Committee received great news this week. The Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association approved the Lafayette's grant application to repair, resurface and re-stain the building's colorful and decoratively etched "starburst" designs in the sidewalks fronting many of the Lafayette's retail spaces on Linden and Broadway Avenues.

Currently, the radiating red and green "starbursts" are faded, scarred and worn and the cement is cracked from years of usage and exposure. With a 20% contribution from LAHO, the repairs and restoration will be performed by Silverlake Conservation, which specializes in the cement, plaster and stone restoration work of historic buildings.

The awarding of the grant is a necessary first step for the Lafayette to gain long sought after recognition from state and national registries as a historic landmark.

Public Relations/Social Committee

On Saturday, August 19, the Lafayette Public Relations Committee helped organize the first ever **Linden Avenue Block Sale**. With participation from the Cooper Arms and other area residential buildings, the Lafayette drew large crowds to its ballroom and sidewalks with a mix of live entertainment, rummage sales, art exhibits and even booths selling cookies and lemonade.

Local merchants and area artists noted a dramatic increase in sales, beyond that of the monthly Second Saturday Art Walks and asked that the Lafayette organize similar events on a more frequent basis. While that has yet to be decided, generously donated furniture, books and other items raised enough money for the Lafayette to reupholster furniture for the **Seventh Floor Landing**.

While most LAHO residents are familiar with the building's solarium, another public area available to entertain guests is just off the elevator on the Seventh Floor of the Lafayette Building. Period furniture has been restored for all to enjoy a good book or conversation in front of floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the pool area of the Long Beach Inn (formerly known as the Lafayette Lanais), Broadway Avenue, Signal Hill and the Saddleback Mountains the perfect scenery for good daydreaming.

Garden/Landscape Committee

In case you missed them, new trees and shrubs

(and replacements) have been planted in the garden area, along the Lafayette retail spaces and across the street at the Linden parking lots.

Additionally, a large charcoal **barbecue** has been donated to the Lafayette for public enjoyment. Please use this barbecue, but also be sure that the grill, lid, cutting boards and other flat services are wiped clean after each use. Remember, it's all about being a good neighbor.

And on that note, for those who smoke, please dispose of cigarette butts in proper locations, i.e. the trash, and not on Lafayette sidewalks, in Lafayette planters or pots. Also, if you see some litter in the lobby, garden area or in front of the building, please do your part and throw it away—even if it's not yours. Thanks.

How to Volunteer

As is the case with these and all other LAHO committees, additional volunteers are welcome and encouraged!!! Please contact Sharon in the office, any LAHO Board member or Committee member and sign up—it's that easy.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Who's Who at the Lafayette

2002 Board of Directors

President: Jean-Louis de Bien

First Vice-President: Laraine Turner

Second Vice-President: Lou Schor

Treasurer: Mary Wright

Secretary: Andy Blinn

Office Manager

Sharon Hays

Contact the President

E-mail: LOALB@MSN.COM

Phone: 432-5295

(Weekdays 8am-9pm, Weekends 9am-9pm)

Contact the Board

In writing: Each board member has a mailbox in the office. All written comments will be addressed in a timely manner. Or go to Feedback on the Lafayette's Website at www.thelafayettelb.org.

In person: Come to the board meetings every **first Wednesday** of the month at 7pm in the Solarium. Look for agenda and/or change in schedule notices to be posted in advance.

Contact the Office

Phone: 436-5391

Office Hours

9:00 am to 5:00 pm Weekdays

Other Useful Numbers

Platt Security: 986-4484

Charter Communications: (866) 499-8080

Robinett Plumbing: 804-3555

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Stan Correia

by *Thea Robertshaw*

Stan watched as the World Trade Center was being built. It was a four-minute ride from Jersey City to Manhattan Island. He had a better view of Manhattan than most New Yorkers. Stan says “we watched those towers and would speculate how high they would go, what color, texture and how they would look when finished. I would visit many times and get acquainted with the people that worked there. I knew some of the waitresses and shopkeepers and would visit my nephew’s friends whose business occupied a whole floor in the W.T.C. All these people are gone. I can still see their faces. I’m afraid to ask – I don’t want to know.”

Stan Correia was in the Air Force during the Korean War from 1951 to 1955. He was mostly involved in taking food supplies and flying back and forth from Korea to Japan.

Stan retired from the Post Office with an injured back 25 years ago. He started college at 40 with a major in psychology. He says, “I enjoyed it and did it mainly for self satisfaction.” Stan has that interesting look, with his graying hair, of someone whose ancestors came from far-away places.

His family’s story slowly unfolds starting with his grandfather who was a whaler from the Cape Verde islands, once a Portuguese possession. This string of islands is located just off the coast of West Africa. The people are a mixture of many different cultures and races: European, Arabian, and African.

“Grandfather in his many travels as a whaler settled in New Jersey. My father met my mother there, who came from South Carolina. He took her to the Cape Verde islands where they had their first two children. My oldest sister is 76 now. Benvendia was born in Cape Verde. I am the sixth child of nine children born in the States.”

Stan talks about his grandmother who didn’t like it here. Stan says, “Isn’t it strange that Americans assume that everybody would like it here? Well grandmother went back to the islands and grandfather stayed here. When grandmother was 93 years old, she wanted to see her sons. She traveled all that way across the Atlantic Ocean once again. She died a year later on this continent when I was 30 years old.”

I was invited back to view a photo of Stan’s grandfather that had been at the framers. This unfolds another amazing story of the grandparents on his mother’s side. The photograph looks really old and the man in the picture looks old but tough and strong. He has white hair and a

huge white mustache. To Stan he looks like “Wild Bill Hickock” and to me he looks a bit like “Mark Twain.” “Oh, by the way,” Stan laughs, “that photograph was taken before I was born. My grandmother who was old too could have been in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest woman to bear a child.” Stan had wanted that photo since he was a boy, and his mother gave it to him before she died. She knew he cared about it and would treasure it. Stan says, “My grandfather’s father came from Palestine. He had been captured and was taken to the South as a slave. There he married a woman who was also a slave and most likely black. So grandfather was born into slavery in 1857. Slavery ended in 1865 when he was 8 years old. My grandparents had 16 children, at least 4 lived to be a hundred years old.” Stan just read about a woman, Adelina Domingues, who died near San Diego at 114 years old, the oldest person known to be living in the United States. She was born in the Cape Verde Islands in 1888 and married an Italian whaler. Stan thinks she may have been related to his family somehow.

Looking around Stan’s beautiful remodeled apartment, I see paintings, plants, and sculpture, such as the figures made out of railroad spikes. Stan talks about the art appreciation course he took. He says, “Now I see things – subtle things – it’s hard to explain.” Stan had become fascinated with watches and collects old timepieces, wristwatches and pocket watches. He found the first one on Canal Street and emphasizes that it had something “odd” and that is what he looks for.

Stan has two sons, the oldest, Marcus, is auditor for the State of New York. He has visited and might settle here some day. Some of you might remember Stan’s youngest son Jack who lived here. He was very well liked. Jack is doing well. He went back to New Jersey to continue his career as a school psychologist. Stan has to take it easy these days. Sometimes he sees the doctor at the VA three times a week. He says, “they are keeping me alive.”

The East Village reminds Stan somewhat of the Village in New York. Stan says that Phil Appleby got the idea from New York to call this area the East Village Arts District. “I think we have a ways to go to come up to the NY standard.” But with Stan Correia around, and people like him, with his sensitivity and awareness of the arts, there is hope for the East Village Arts District here in Long Beach.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, CONTINUED

different view of things.”

Susan would have liked to stay in Saudi Arabia but her parents decided to go back to Chino, California for the children’s high school education. When they returned to Chino, a few things had changed. Their grandparents had been afraid to tell them that there had been an accident. Their two-story house was no longer the same. The water-heater had exploded, burning the house and the occupant.

Susan’s mother was in a woman’s barber-shop quartet. One voice was missing so Susan asked her mother if she could be in her quartet. At 12 she thought she could do anything, of course. Her mother agreed. But to be in the quartet she had to join the Sweet Adelines. She currently sings with the 105-voice “Harborlites,” located in Anaheim (but with chapters worldwide). They sing four-part *a capella* barbershop style. The Harborlites are a regional championship showcase chorus. In November they will compete at the International contest in Nashville, aiming for the top 10.

In 1982 Susan sang together with her mother in the quartet at the international competition in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Barber-shop is a uniquely American art form. In a quartet, the melody is in the lead part or the “second voice,” which gives barbershop its characteristic flavor.

Now before we even get close to these two people meeting, we have to back track to David’s story. His father was a project engineer on contract with the Air Force and each year they would move to a different state. David says, “Socially it was very hard—making friends in high school and then having to move again and not belonging anywhere.” David studied voice at

Loma Linda University. In his second year he was drafted and sent to Munich, Germany. David recalls having a political conversation with a cab driver whom promptly threw him out of the cab. How is this for being politically incorrect?

David became a medic in the Army and married when he came back to the States. He moved to Riverside and worked for an ambulance company to get away from his mother-in-law. When Los Angeles started a paramedic’s program at LA General, they sent six men to Palm Springs for training, and David was one of the six.

It’s hard to keep up with David. Among his many accomplishments he’s worked for an industrial bank and later started a newspaper, the “Loma Linda Pulse.” With a friend he bought the San Bernardino Publishing Company. They were put out of business in 1973 when the paper shortage hit. David later learned that this had been a political ploy. At the time he went back into the Army and became an orthopedic technician. A doctor in Johnstown, Pennsylvania offered him a position as a physician’s assistant in 1977, but just as David arrived, they had 18 inches of rain in one hour and the flood wiped out the town.

He came back here and worked for various doctors. David says, “Doctors have too much ego.” He adds jokingly, “So do I.” In the early 80’s David got into management and consulting. He is with Cetalon Corporation, which is struggling to grow in the area of health and nutrition. A man of many talents, David sang in barber-shop quartets for 20 years. He belongs to SPEBSQUA, the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. David also sang in the five-time international championship chorus, the “Masters of Harmony.” While the quartet was in Pasadena for a divisional contest, “The guys went to the after-glow party which was very dull,” and it occurred to David that the Sweet Adelines were in town. As they walked into the lobby, Susan spotted David. She approached him, kissed his hand and said, “You must be David.” As he looked over her shoulder at someone else, she started singing in his ear. This really got his attention. They played the cat and mouse game for a while. Susan told her friends, “In six months that man is mine.” In 1985 they moved to Chico together where David again majored in vocal performance at Chico State. They married in 1987 on Valentines Day. David remembered being in Seal Beach as a kid. They moved there in 1989 and became interested in the hotels in Long Beach. They looked at several, but the Lafayette just grabbed them. In May 2000, they bought Richard and Hyme’s place.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PHINNEYS

Say, don’t these people look kind of familiar? Oh yeah, it’s Susan and David back in the day, circa 1985.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, CONTINUED

Susan and David just acquired a dog. “Buster” is a rat terrier. He runs like a greyhound and loves the dog-park on Seventh Street. Susan’s job allows her a lot of freedom to take Buster out and to meet with her quartet. Each member lives in a different state and they agree on where to meet for rehearsals.

In 1991 Susan graduated from FIDM, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles. She works for Levi Strauss and is the liaison between Levi Strauss & Company and J.C.Penny. She loves her job even though it requires a lot of self-discipline, which goes with the freedom. David continues to play the guitar and write music. This singing nomadic couple has finally made a home right here in the Lafayette.

FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome New Neighbors

- 316 Brian Simmons (owner)
- 342 Thomas McCann (owner)
- 357 Dennis & Barbara Schultz (owners)
- 604 Quizela Villalta (tenant)
- 741 Jim Kavanagh (tenant)



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PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LAFAYETTE’S GENERAL FUND

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Lafayette Website Moves to New Address

By Andy Blinn

If you’re an exceedingly observant sort of person, you probably have noticed the Lafayette’s new Website address on the cover of this issue of the Letter. Why the change, you ask? Well, in addition to being a “real” non-profit organization domain name, the upgraded account allows the use of password protection. Those of you who visited the site at its old GeoCities address may recall that anyone could see the residents-only pages without using a password. And the pesky popup ads, which were screwing up the password system, are gone.

Now, the “public” pages that anyone can see are separated from the “residents-only” pages, which have content that can only be seen by Lafayette homeowners (just click on **Residents Sign-in** at the upper right). This way the general public can’t nose around in the Association’s business.

“So,” you may be thinking, “how do I get my password for this stuff?” Many people have been busy moving in and out of the Lafayette, so if you’re new or haven’t received your username and password information, or you forgot what it was, just send an e-mail to **info@thelafayettelb.org** with your name and which unit you live in. I’ll send you back your username and password within 24 hours.

New sections in the works: publicly-accessible “For Sale” pages where owners can list their units when they wish to sell. The seller’s agent contact information would be listed along with a description and photos.

The residents-only section will be fleshed out with online copies of the CC&Rs, Rules and Regulations, and Bylaws for your easy reference. As always, this Website is flexible and your suggestions and useful ideas for improving it are quite welcomed.



Delve into the complex history of the Lafayette complex on the public section of the Website.