

THE LAFAYETTE

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2003

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Koo's

Koo's Art Center, the "new" nonprofit tenant at 540 E. Broadway, is "a rebirth of the former Koo's Art Café. The original Koo's resided in Santa Ana and sparked the Santa Ana Arts District movement. Known for its controversial and provocative events, Koo's has served as a conduit for creative forces for over a decade.

"The mission of Koo's Art Center is the promotion of social awareness and self-empowerment through the community and the arts."

"Koo's Art Café is going to be having a fundraising event on Halloween and the night after. *The Masque of the Red Death* aims to engage all six senses while pushing the threshold of the mundane. It is an irreverent romp; a playful manipulation and transformation of seven rooms into conceptual themes that address a panoply of concepts and emotions."

The Lafayette is leasing most of our vacant commercial space for this event, and Koo's is transforming them into theme rooms such as the Fetish Room, the Clown Room, The Lab of Horror and the Zombie Room. Find out more by stopping by 540 Broadway and reading the poster, or by visiting the Website at www.edgarallenkoos.org.

Dennis Lluy, founder of Koo's, has been conscientiously working with the Lafayette to minimize the noise and other intrusions to residents. The major part of the profits from the Halloween fundraiser will be used to construct a costly sound-deadening ceiling in the concert area of the space.

You can find out about Koo's shows and band lineup online at groups.yahoo.com/group/kooscafe. If you have a comment about noise, crowds, or any other concerns, Dennis wants to hear them. He can be reached at (310) 493-2050.

Carpet

So, what do you think of the new carpet? It took me a while to get used to it, since it's such a big change, but now I'm beginning to like it. It's

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Life Stories

By Thea Robertshaw

Summer is nearing its end with autumn starting September 23rd. Traditionally, August is that last chance to get in a little vacation or finish that project we planned to do all summer. It's been difficult to pin anyone down for an interview in August. Either they were on vacation or too busy. Some neighbors like to remain anonymous. So where are you, those that like to be in the limelight?

We would like to take this opportunity to mention some of the older people in the building, some who have passed away. One of them was named Charles Jackson, known as "Charlie." He wrote a book about "Tarrytown on the Pike" which he finished and printed in 1995. Tarrytown, also known as the "Pike" opened June 1907. It was complete with live theater, vaudeville acts, unique stores, live bands, restaurants, a movie theater and side shows. It furnished amusement and recreation at all hours of the day and evening. "For generations it was a place for pleasure seekers." Maybe Charles was one of them. Sometimes I would meet him at the elevator. He had an active mind. He would walk

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PHOTO COURTESY SHARON HAYS

Charles Jackson enjoys the sun on a fine day in Long Beach.

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CONDOMINIUMS
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LONG BEACH, CA 90802
(562) 436-5391

WHAT'S HAPPENING, CONTINUED

the same type of carpet used in Vegas casinos and hotels, and it's pre-Scotchguarded. But that doesn't mean you can spill stuff, drag your leaky garbage bags, let your pet relieve themselves, or do construction jobs on it. This upgrade was not cheap, and it was fought for by the board for over a year. There are several paragraphs in the Rules and Regulations that deal with fines for carpet and other interior damage, and Sharon is keeping a keen eye out for violations. Do your part to keep it tidy.

Handyperson

Jody McMahon has been competing for the title of "Hardest-working Person at the Lafayette." She and her husband Barry have been hired as maintenance and repair workers. Barry has patched the walls in the Lafayette building and will be installing new, energy-efficient exit signs throughout the buildings.

Jody has painted the bridges between buildings and is completing the corridors on each landing. If you haven't been through one of them lately, you're in for a shock—the clean, fresh walls and shiny floor is quite a refreshing change from the grime you may be used to ignoring. Many thanks for all her hard work.

Trash

Speaking of fetishes, our office manager Sharon has quite a fixation on cleaning up this place. It's a daunting task, especially when faced with a vision such as this (see photo at right).

"If you have a large amount of garbage, or large items that don't fit in the trash cans, take them out to the dumpsters!" says Sharon. "Please!!!"

Speaking of dumpsters, **Edison** sent out a notice informing customers that they will pick up old, but working, freezers and refrigerators (and possibly other appliances), recycle them,

and give you cash or fluorescent bulbs. Call them at **800-234-9722** for more info. Program lasts until 12/31/2003.

144

INCO, the Lafayette's commercial property broker, spent many months handling leads and contacting prospective tenants for the former Hellada space at 144 Linden. The end result of the process yielded one viable tenant, a café-style bookstore/newsstand called "Open." The owners are a young couple with experience in book retail operations, and they expect to open for business in mid-November.



PHOTO BY SHARON HAYS

Please refrain from overloading the trash closets. Take it outside.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Who's Who at the Lafayette

2003 Board of Directors

President: Bill Guzik

First Vice-President: Jean-Louis de Bien

Second Vice-President: Lou Schor

Treasurer: Derrick Lloyd

Secretary: Andy Blinn

Office Manager

Sharon Hays

Contact the President

E-mail: billguzik@aol.com

Phone: 495-6264

(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. Also come to the open planning meetings every fourth (last) Wednesday, 7pm.

Contact the Office

Phone: 436-5391 9:30am to 6pm weekdays

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EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
ANDY BLINN

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THEA ROBERTSHAW

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF THE MONTH. AD SPACE AVAILABLE. CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR RATES.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Dennis Lluy

By *Thea Robertshaw*

Dennis Lluy, our new neighbor, is a quiet unassuming presence. He is the new energy behind “Koo’s” now part of the Lafayette complex on Broadway. Don’t let his seemingly (complacent) calm presence fool you. Dennis Lluy is filled with passion for the work that lies ahead. He is an idealistic, compassionate, creative individual.

His track record is impressive. In 1998 he received a national award for community building. Several thousand young people under thirty applied. The award represented unique and cutting edge approaches to community building. The “Do Something Brick Award” represented “Koo’s” in Santa Ana and presented Dennis Lluy with a brick and a \$15,000 grant. Dennis was invited to be on “Good Morning America” and the story was covered in the New York Times. Koo’s’ mission was to create a safe place for young people to express their creativity in music and the arts. But Koo’s was more than that. They dealt with a broad base of issues like aids awareness, abuse, police brutality and environmental issues. “Art being the universal language.”

My curiosity peaked as I listened to Dennis and I wondered what it was that motivated him to take on such a large task that was basically non-profit? Dennis grew up in Orange County. Like many he was a frustrated teenager. As a musician, he had no place to go. There was no support for him and his fellow musicians. No support and the resulting boredom caused much teenage delinquency. In high school Dennis started toying with the “Koo’s” concept—putting together events. In the city of Orange he facilitated a multimedia show at the DNA Gallery. Though the real tragedy came when his close friend since grade school, Bob, committed suicide. Dennis was devastated. He wanted to do something positive with all this energy within him. Koo’s in Santa Ana became the vocal point of his experiences growing up.

A man named Don Cribb, a visionary, heard about Koo’s. He created the Santa Ana Council. As president of this group, he invited Dennis to join the council. Dennis considers Don Cribb his mentor. They put a committee together in the First Arts District in Santa Ana which included the Cal. State University in Fullerton. They received a 10 million grant from the City. And out of this came the Santa Ana Artist Village. They had their own printing press, live/work spaces, a theater, art and dance, graphic design and much more. Dennis says, “every culture has it—we need to get that across to us. And Santa

Ana knows that now.”

“When you loose the artists, the area becomes unstable. The energy stops,” Dennis continues, “while living in the Broadlind, I observed the ups and downs of this area.” The space in the Lafayette sparked his interest. Again inspired, Dennis says, “I wondered if I was getting my hopes up or wasting my time and energy. I called Don Cribb for advice. Don came and told me that Long Beach has ten times the potential of Santa Ana. He feels confident that Koo’s can be a success here.”

Dennis says for the artists these projects are a long-term investment. We have to get people to listen and understand. He sees himself as a liaison between the various factions – the Development agencies, City Hall, the Downtown Business Association, the East Village Association, the Public Corporation for the Arts, the brokers/developers and more. Koo’s will be the bridge making this possible.

We wish Dennis Lluy well in his hard work. This new positive energy will bring life and creativity to the area as well as making this a safer place to live.

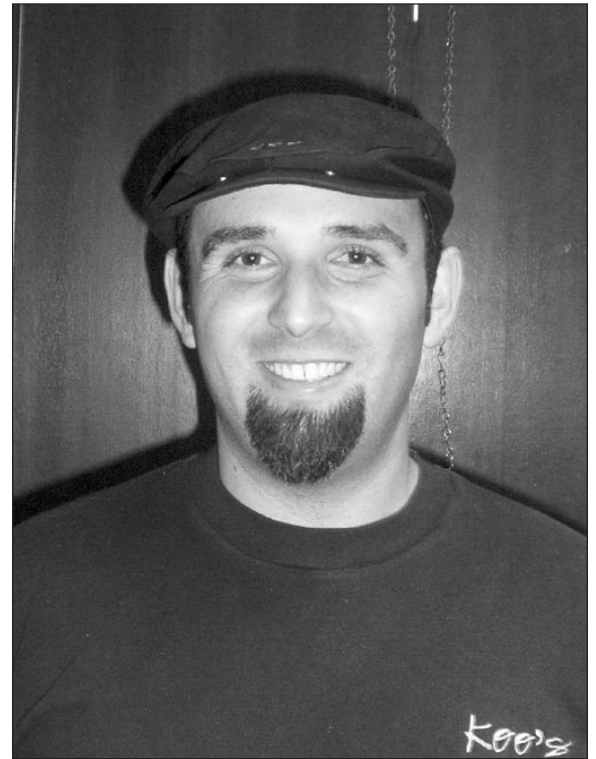


PHOTO BY SHARON HAYS

Don't be surprised if you see this man's face around the neighborhood. He's not missing, he just runs Koo's.

**P L E A S E
READ THE RULES
& REGULATIONS
THE LAFAYETTE THANKS YOU**

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, CONTINUED

all the way to the Public Library to do his research. Later we would see him struggle with his walker and some of us would hold the door for him. Sharon, our office manager, put those green tennis balls on his walker to make it easier to handle. I always wanted to interview him for a *Meet Your Neighbor* article. It was not to be. One day he told me he was going into the hospital for a throat cancer and said this will probably be it. A week later I heard from Sharon, who had visited him in the hospital, that Charles had died, and since he had no next of kin he named her for his representative. This touched us deeply, a reminder of our vulnerability.

Then there is Trudy, also known as “Rosy the Riveter.” She will have me do an article on her some day—maybe. She says I have too much on my mind right now. “You don’t know what its like to be 93 years old,” as she pushes that little white dog in her wheel chair. Kay says, “Trudy has a really interesting story,” and Trudy disagrees. She says, “Other people have been places—have traveled the world. I just came from Oklahoma.”

The Inuit people in Alaska have a saying, “God must have loved stories—he created so many people.” Yes, we love stories. Quite awhile back I wrote Kay Kiehl’s story. [See *Issue #18, December 2001*. —Ed.] She is a fascinating person with lots of stories—maybe that’s why she has so many friends here. She has been very sick this past year. She had part of her leg amputated and has become very weak. She sold her unit and is now moving to a full time care facility in San Diego. We don’t want to see her go. But we wish her well and send her good thoughts and hope that she’ll be well taken care of. In the past Kay volunteered many hours to various projects in the building. She will be missed by many friends and neighbors.



PHOTO BY MARC GALANG

Kay Kiehl enjoying the festivities at last year’s Holiday Party in the Lafayette lobby.



The classic Rosie the Riveter poster from 1943, by artist J. Howard Miller, commissioned by the United States War Production Commission.

When I came to this country at 18, I had to learn the language. It took me a long time to become comfortable with writing. I still feel self-conscious about my English. But I finally realized that it is the content that really matters. What is it that we really want to say? Is our heart in it? A more difficult phenomenon to understand was when I realized that America is a youth oriented culture and the old are literally forgotten and isolated and sometimes discriminated against. Yet they are the lineage bearers.

A good friend of mine who was with the rock group “Blood, Sweat and Tears,” told me once as he got older that his music writing for the group had become too sophisticated. “Now they are producing for the 12-year-olds.” Maybe there is a change—a maturing of this culture. We see it in some films like *Driving Miss Daisy*, with Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman and *On Golden Pond*, with Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn. One of my favorite films is a Dutch, international award winner *Antonia’s Line*. Four generations of women are in the film. The film opens with Antonia deciding the day she’s going to die—that last rite of passage we all go through.

Let me know if you have a good story or even just a story (not a résumé). Our younger people too are encouraged to let us know about your struggles and aspirations. That is if you are planning to stick around a bit.

Contact Thea Robertshaw at (562) 432-7762.

Editor’s Note: Kay Kiehl passed away during the morning of October 7. An informal remembrance party was held in her unit by her family and close relatives, who were in town to visit her during her hospitalization. Kay will be missed by many of her friends at the Lafayette. Marc Galang, owner of 404, passed away suddenly October 6, and will be missed also.