



S.F. KOLPING Newsletter

MAY 2020

Best of 2020

Starting a new decade typically is met with excitement, planning and a sense of hope for the future—and this decade—2020 was supposed to go gangbuster! The economy was roaring and optimism was soaring, and then things changed.

The Corona Virus is impacting all of us in different ways, on different days. It's not easy having to social distance and being told to shelter in place. At times you might wake up not even knowing what day it is. Other days you feel like going out for lunch, then realize you can't. But there are days when you think of how nice it is to have an excuse for hanging out at home. It's comforting to see young families taking walks together and neighbors waving and shouting hello from across the street.

We all are hoping and praying that we can gather together again soon and catch up on the past months. If you find that you could use a friendly voice or need a hand, feel free to give Lisa a call at 415-381-3989 or email lbrinkmann@mac.com. It's an odd and unsettling time and a familiar voice might help you get through it easier.

In an attempt to help lift a few spirits, this newsletter will include some "flashbacks" to easier times, a few pictures of Lisa's trip to Kenya and highlights from our Mardi Gras potluck/bingo.

Flashback!

Random pictures from Kolping activities in 2019.



Chairs and Repairs

Once this virus is over ... we'll be enjoying our new chairs at the Kolping. The week after our Mardi Gras potluck/bingo, Lisa arrived at the Kolping early to get ready for a shipment of new, lightweight chairs. She was soon joined by Gunther Ehrich, Rose Marie Azinhiera and Arlene Bushner to lend a hand. The shipment was delayed and didn't arrive until late in the day, but by then Cathy Vennemeyer, Karen Taylor and Astrid Holder joined the crew. We separated the old good from the bad chairs, cleaned the good ones, and received the new ones. The gang was able to unpack, test, and stack 50 new chairs, as well as assemble the racks to hold them.



In addition to the chairs, Lisa and Gunther were busy coordinated a rebuild of our closets when you first enter the hall. We now have a separate door for our plumbing and electric as well as a dedicated coat closet. Progress!



Mardi Gras Potluck-Bingo

"Let's do something different for the February potluck," commented Kathy Biesty. "Valentine's Day will be over, how about celebrating Mardi Gras?" Great ideas start with a simple suggestion. Thanks to Karen Taylor for helping Lisa with decorations and Ron Kapp for serving as our official photographer at our first annual Mardi Gras celebration. Masks, beads and horns were distributed around the hall and donned to add to the festivities.

Our Kolping members were unbelievably generous with their raffle prize donations as we were able to raise over \$200 in proceeds that will be used for the Kenyan goat initiative. Wine, scarves, food basket, handmade Kenyan baskets and flowers were among the prizes. Dolly Gruebl must have had some premonitions that evening for she asked "If I take a second raffle prize, can I still win the bingo blackout?" The answer was "yes", and then she did just that, walking away with the second blackout. Frances Murphy was also lucky not only winning the first blackout, but a raffle prize as well. Thank you and congratulations to all.

Winners!



And the Big Winner 



Kenya

Talk about good timing...if Lisa had planned her trip to Kenya any later, it would not have happened. The week following our Installation Luncheon, Lisa boarded a flight to Nairobi where she spent the next week traveling with Ted Wilke from the Cincinnati Kolping and the local Kenyan reps to meet the Kolping families who received the goats, purchased from our donations. The days were long and the roads were indescribable, but having the opportunity to see how and where these Kolping brothers and sisters live was a once in a lifetime adventure.

All of the families we met were grateful for the donations we've made and proud to have been selected to receive a goat. Small as this gift may seem to us, for them it meant having more nutritious milk for their family, saving money to use on food and clothing, and the chance to improve their own livelihoods. It was not only an eye-opener to see how little they have, but also to appreciate how lucky we are. Videos of the trip can be viewed on youtube.com and if you search for Kolping USA, you can see all four of them.



More Flashbacks! *Kolping activities in 2019.*



Calendar

S.F. Kolping Events

For the safety of our members, at this point in time we are not planning on meeting or holding any activities until further notice. When we are able to meet again, Lisa will let everyone know.

Convention 2020... make that 2021

It has been decided to postpone the Kolping Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio until 2021. There will be more information in *The Banner*, the national newsletter, in the coming months.

Bingo during Shelter-In-Place

Annika and Johnny Swayze, Kolping's Bingo helper's when they're in town are hosting "Distance Bingo" at home in Florida. Annika uses a head-set with a mic so everyone can hear, a Bingo App on her phone to pull the numbers, and old Bingo cards from Saint Anne's of the



Sunset for the weekly event. Neighbors enjoy Bingo while sitting on lawn chairs around the driveway—only in Florida! A 10 foot pool brush is used to keep social distance while collecting the 25¢ a game ante up, winner takes all. The Blackout winner receives the most valuable prize of all—a roll of toilet paper!



Obituaries



Elsa Kehl

Member since 1992

Elsa was always a fun, playful member who would give you "the look" when she was waiting for her bingo numbers to be called. She joked with Bill

Luque from across the hall and made special effort to make every casino trip. Elsa loved attending the Kolping activities and events and enjoyed the friends she made. We will miss her dearly.



Hubert Brinkmann

Member since 1953

Hubert's first years in the U.S. were spent as a boarder at the Kolping House on Oak Street, where he met many of his life long friends. Hubert served

as the Kolping President for many terms, received our Distinguished Member award and was on the Board of Directors until his death. In many regards, Hubert can be attributed for Kolping's longevity in San Francisco. He welcomed new members and encouraged them to serve as officers. As other clubs and organizations folded, he asked their members to consider joining ours. To entice participation at meetings, he initiated a raffle and always brought freshly baked goodies (usually a beehive.) We will miss Hubert's welcome at the door, baked goods at Christmas and Easter, and willingness to do whatever it took to make the San Francisco Kolping a viable organization.

Quarantine Cuisine

Kathy was missing Kolping friends. So she did the next best thing—made *Erna's "Wow" Almond Torte*. It's almost like being at Potluck/ Bingo. YUM!



We welcome submissions for the newsletters and topics that might be of interest to all.

Warmly, Lisa Brinkmann and Kathy Biesty