

Artist Jorg Dubin will introduce a personal favorite at Film Night at Laguna Art Museum on Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m.: *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*.

More commonly known as *Dr. Strangelove*, the film is a 1964 political satire/black comedy that satirizes the Cold War fears of a nuclear conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In it, an insane general triggers a path to nuclear holocaust that a war room full of politicians and generals frantically tries to stop. The film was directed, produced, and co-written by Stanley Kubrick, and is loosely based on Peter George's thriller novel *Red Alert*.

Advance tickets are recommended. Reserve tickets online at www.lagunaartmuseum.org or call (949) 494.8971 x203.

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SoLag Community Garden encourages residents to support its future and sign petition

Story by DIANE ARMITAGE

Nine years ago, the vacant lot at the corner of Coast Highway and Eagle Rock in South Laguna was choked with weeds.

At that time, owner Paul Tran gave written permission for the South Laguna Civic Association to install a Community Garden. Today, it is thriving with more than 50 privately stewarded garden plots and a slew of garden enthusiasts, picnickers and neighbors enjoying workshops, potlucks, mini-concerts and harvest festivals.

Last Sunday, the South Laguna Community Garden celebrated its annual Spring Fling Potluck Festival and memorialized its biggest proponent, Morrie Granger, with more than 200 people in attendance.



Click on photo for a larger image

Photo by Mary Hurlbut

Lots of plots for lots of folks at the community garden

The South Laguna Garden is a monument to true community, from the many donated supplies (including vintage iron gates, water system, starter plants and many garden amenities from Ruben Flores of Laguna Nursery), lumber from Ganahl, construction and development assistance, and ongoing maintenance.

And, still, the lot on which it sits is owned by someone else, leaving its future uncertain.

Council meeting tonight to assert future for our burgeoning garden

For years, leaders behind the South Laguna Community Garden Park have worked with the City for solutions to buying the parcel, all while diligently raising money from supporters. To date, they've raised \$175,000, and the City has committed \$500,000 toward buying the property. However, so far, the new landowners have not been responsive on cutting a deal.

City Council is meeting tonight (Tuesday, May 8) to review a bill prepared by Steve Dicterow and Rob Zur Schmiede that more assertively speaks to next steps in potential acquisition of the South Laguna Community Garden Park.



Click on photo for a larger image

Photo by Mary Hurlbut

A wonderful gathering spot for the old, the young, and the in-between

South Laguna Garden Committee spokesperson Ann Christoph is asking residents and supporters in town to sign a petition at the garden's website, <http://southlagunaorg.garden> to assure the City Council that there's genuine interest in seeing the Community Garden stay in play, grow its greenery and soothe the souls of those who wander through (as only a garden can do).

Petition is already gathering steam

The petition went live on Sunday afternoon and, as of Monday afternoon, had already collected nearly 100 signatures. The website seems to be running a bit slow with all the activity, but have patience – the petition takes just seconds to sign.

Residents are also circulating pen-and-paper petitions to add to the online responses.

“This is an important turning point for our Garden,” says Christoph. “With the supportive comments we hear from local Garden visitors, there are a lot of people out there who would love to see the Community Garden bloom for years to come.”



Click on photo for a larger image

Photo by Tony Bisson

Potluck & celebration of Morrie Granger’s life drew hundreds to the garden

“The Garden has become such a resource to adults and children already,” says Carly Sciacca, organizer of children’s activities at the Garden.

Committee member Sally Coffey adds, “The community of people who started as strangers and have become friends continues to grow in parallel with the greenery all around. It really is a magical refuge.”

To sign the petition for our only Community Garden, go to <http://southlagunaorg.garden>.

The City Council’s meeting begins at 6 p.m. sharp, with the Community Garden 18th on the agenda.



Diane Armitage is the best-selling author of the book, The Best of Laguna Beach, and offers a cornucopia of ideas and upcoming events at her blog www.LagunaBeachBest.com. Follow TheBestofLagunaBeach on Instagram & Facebook.

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