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Begalka: Lucy's Café offers unique club within a club

Date: August 12, 2009 **Section:** Sidetracks

Now you can go clubbin' at the **Raue Center** for the Arts in Crystal Lake. Lucy's Café, an eclectic nightclub named after Lucille **Raue**, whose estate provided the initial funding to purchase what is now the **Raue** theater, opens its doors at 8 p.m. the third Friday of the month. Stand-up comedians take the stage at 8:30 p.m., while you bide your time sipping wine, beer or soda with a cheese plate. Pre-ordering drinks reserves you the best table available at the time of your order.

Begun last November, the destination within a destination has become a huge hit, said **Raue** General Manager Kate Wilford. Tickets are \$20 in advance – in this case through Aug. 20 – and \$25 the day of the show. Ordering in advance guarantees you premium seating within the intimate, 120-seat venue located on the **Raue** stage.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at

Comic TR Bender, who has performed at colleges and clubs in 31 states – including The Funnybone, Zanies and The Improv in Chicago – is the opening act Aug. 21. Dwayne Kennedy, whose resume includes performances on “The Late Show with David Letterman” and “Seinfeld” – is the headliner.

A new Lucy's Café music series starts Oct. 2 and continues Oct. 9, Jan. 22 and May 14. It will feature an array of musical acts, including jazz, which now only is offered prior to and after the comedy shows.

“It will be kind of like a downtown piano bar,” said Christin Kruse, **Raue** community development director.

Get ‘Real’

The Old Court House Arts **Center** in Woodstock will host the “Real People 2009: Celebrating the Arts Through Faces and Figures”

through Sept. 27. Hours are 11 to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays at 101 N. Johnson St. on the Woodstock Square.

Seventy artists from around the country submitted 150 pieces. Judges selected 77 for the show – ranging from several large charcoals to acrylics to oils. Local artists featured are Molly Brown and Gabriel Karagianis of Woodstock; Diane Hynes and Brian Matras of Crystal Lake; George Pipiros of McHenry and Alice Schank of Spring Grove. First place went to Rebecca Venn of Kenosha, Wis. for “Javelin.”

Three other art exhibits will be going on simultaneously with “Real People”: The 25th annual exhibition by The Workshop for Contemporary Artists; “Claymirth & Friends,” a showing by potters from The Fine Line Gallery of St. Charles; and (Aug. 22-23, only) “Figuratively Speaking” – the Old Court House Figurative League members’ sale.

A reception for the artists and the public is 6 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 22, the same weekend as the Woodstock Jazz Festival in and around the Square. The latter, Aug. 21-22, features the best of McHenry County jazz musicians, sponsored by the nonprofit Jazz on the Square. Galleries, restaurants and retailers are participating.

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