



# THE LAFAYETTE

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2003

WWW.THELAFAYETTELB.ORG

ISSUE #29

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### FROM THE BOARD

## The New Board's Plans for 2003

By Bill Guzik

Just a quick note to announce that the new 2003 Board has exciting plans for the future of the Lafayette. The Board, together with committee volunteers, is working to explore the possibilities of installing carpet and new hallway lighting and continuing to upgrade our plumbing and electrical infrastructure this year.

The Board also hopes to spearhead efforts to renovate the lobby's library area, our garden and outside landscaping and to pursue our second historical grant, which would spotlight our art deco facades and other architectural characteristics through a dynamic outdoor lighting program. If successful, the lighting program would serve as a nighttime visual icon for the city, much like the Villa Riviera, and would truly make the Lafayette the *jewel* of the East Village.

As you may know, the new 2003 Board officers are as follows:

- Bill Guzik – President*
- Jean Louis Debien – 1st Vice President*
- Lou Schor – 2nd Vice President*
- Andy Blinn – Secretary*
- Derrick Lloyd – Treasurer*

New Committee Volunteers are needed and are always welcome. Association Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Solarium and Working Meetings, comprised of Board Members and committee volunteers are held the last Wednesday of each month, also at 7:00 PM.

Hope to see some new faces this year.

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Matt Hood

By Thea Robertshaw

The interests you develop as a child will somehow play an important role in your entire life. Matt Hod is a fascinating, complex person who would tend to agree with that. His talents and skills are many and all have roots in his childhood.

At twelve years old Matt would visit his grandmother, then living on 4th Street. A fine art and antique store was located directly next door, and he would frequently visit the shop owners who were friends with his grandmother. On one visit Matt discovered an 1846 melodeon and was intrigued by its craftsmanship and beautiful wooden case. It stirred his young imagination for the art and music in him. He had played the Hammond organ since childhood and was taking piano lessons. Matt thought it would be cool to collect antique keyboard instruments. What do you do when you are twelve and you want to buy such an extravagant piece of antique furniture? "Well," Matt says, "I worked all summer tutoring neighborhood kids in math and music and saved my money."

When Matt was in the 8th grade he visited relatives in Wyoming. His grandmother had an antique pump organ previously used by a church that sat in a dark corner of a storage room. Matt would spend hours playing that organ. His grandmother saw how he loved it and had the organ shipped to Long Beach. He was determined to restore the old instrument. He disassembled the whole organ, and when the parts were strewn all over the patio, his mother-totally astonished- asked, "How on earth are you going to put it all back together again?" Matt succeeded in restoring and refinishing the organ and felt a great accomplishment in having "saved" the old instrument.

Currently Matt is remodeling his place on the 7th floor in the Lafayette/Broadway building. He has an eye for possibilities and began by gutting the space in order to start with a "clean slate." Matt says, "It's a great space with lots of

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# IMPORTANT!

**PLEASE REVIEW THE LAFAYETTE'S EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ON PAGE 2**

THE LAFAYETTE  
CONDOMINIUMS  
140 LINDEN AVENUE  
LONG BEACH, CA 90802  
(562) 436-5391

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

# Be Prepared: Lafayette Emergency Procedures

With heightened state and national security concerns as well as general fire and earthquake preparedness, it is time we review the Lafayette's emergency procedures.

### STATE and NATIONAL READINESS -

Everyone can contribute to the safety and security of the building by ensuring that all public doors are kept closed and locked and that no one should be admitted into the building without having first been buzzed in by a resident. Please remain vigilant of all things and people out of the ordinary including packages left unattended and strangers wandering the halls.

**FIRE and EARTHQUAKE** – Familiarize yourself with your floor's fire alarm box (several on each floor) and exits. In case of fire or earthquake, make your way to the nearest stairwell and exit calmly to the street level. **THE ELEVATORS WILL NOT WORK WHEN ALARMS ARE SOUNDED AND SHOULD NOT BE USED AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE.** Assemble at our "safe haven" location on the corner of First and Linden Avenues.

Be sure to close your doors behind you as this will help to contain fire and smoke.

**FLOOR MONITORS** – Each floor has a designated floor monitor to help alert you of danger and direct you to the nearest stairwell exit. Each floor monitor will reintroduce themselves to you in the coming week.

**DISABLED RESIDENTS** - If you are disabled or require the use of a wheelchair, you are to remain in your unit until the City's Fire Rescue comes to assist you down the stairs. (Use common sense, if you see smoke coming under your door, place a rolled dampened towel on the threshold.) Each floor monitor is aware of your situation, and your names and unit numbers have been submitted to the City's Fire Rescue Teams. If you need to be added to this list, please see Sharon.

**SAFE HAVEN LOCATION** – As mentioned above, once you make your way down to the street level, assemble on the corner of First and Linden Avenues. **DO NOT GATHER IN THE GARDEN AREA, LOBBY OR IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING** as this will impede rescue efforts and may endanger you to fire or falling glass and debris.

**PETS** – While you are the number one priority, try not to leave your pets behind. Bring them down to the street level on a leash or in a cage.

**PERSONAL EMERGENCIES** - In case of personal emergencies, dial 9-1-1 immediately.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** - The Long Beach Fire Department reminded us that the Lafayette is better equipped than most to withstand these types of emergencies as it is a cement building. Our stairwells are wide and well lit and our alarm systems, extinguishers and backup emergency lighting systems are working properly and are examined regularly. Fire and smoke damage should be limited provided residential fire-proof doors are kept closed when exiting. The building also withstood the tests of the 1933 Long Beach and 1994 Northridge earthquakes.

For more information, please contact the Office Manager or your Floor Monitor.

## COMMITTEE NOTES

# Get Involved!

*By Matt Hood*

Committee involvement can be fulfilling and fun! Please take time to appreciate and respect the hard work of the Lafayette Committees.

It is the volunteer efforts of committee members that maintain the garden, keep commercial properties clear of debris, provide music in the lobby, design new elevators, and plan events. Committees have spearheaded improvements such as the raising of the flag, restoring the sidewalks, installing original lighting in the lobby, redecorating the seventh floor lounge, maintaining the seventh floor patio, providing new furniture for the library and so much more!

All committees request that no one make changes or improvements without checking with Sharon or a committee head first. While they appreciate the interest, most projects are a group effort and require group decisions...so, please, if you wish to help make the Lafayette a better place to live, see Sharon for a list of active committees and sign up today!

# The Letter Needs You!

*By Andy Blinn*

Speaking of committees and volunteering, how would you like to get involved in putting this newsletter together?

If you've cared to notice, there was no February or March issue this year. Why? Well, to be frank, it's just too difficult for me to research, write, edit and lay out all the content that goes into this newsletter each month. Any and all **writers, photographers or artists** out there who feel like doing stories, illustrations or photos, you are greatly encouraged to contact me! Call 435-8023 or e-mail [info@thelafayettelb.org](mailto:info@thelafayettelb.org).



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**EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR**  
ANDY BLINN

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
BILL GUZIK  
SHARON HAYS  
MATT HOOD  
THEA ROBERTSHAW

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

## FROM THE OFFICE

## Support the Kid

Each year, my granddaughter Abigail, age 6, participates as a model in the PADRE (Pediatric Adolescent Diabetes Research and Education) Foundations annual fashion show. Abby was diagnosed with diabetes at age 3. This year Abby will once again strut her stuff to help raise money for diabetes research and to support all the wonderful programs that the PADRE foundation puts on, like, diabetes kids camp, research seminars and their annual Halloween and Christmas parties.



This year the fashion show is being held on May 3, 2003 at the Hyatt Huntington Beach Resort and will feature professional adult models along with children with diabetes models. This year is especially exciting for us since Abby is not only going to be a model but she will be appearing on

the ***KTTLA Channel 5 news to promote the show!! Look for her on April 1st, during the 7a.m. and 8 a.m. broadcasts.***

Every donation that you make in Abigail's name directly supports the activities that make Abby's life with diabetes a little easier and the research that will help us find a cure. **Any donation that will fit into your budget will be greatly appreciated.** For each \$100 donation you make your business card will be placed in the program which is distributed to each guest (estimated at 800 people) and throughout Fashion Island, Newport Beach. Every donation of \$150 or more will receive ad space in the program as listed on the attached donation sheet. Also, we would love any non-monetary donations you could give, such as gift certificates or items that can be included in a silent auction.

If you would like to sponsor Abigail please fill out the enclosed sponsorship form including your name as you would like it to appear in the program, along with a check made payable to The PADRE Foundation and drop it off at the Lafayette office. Lastly, if you would like an invitation to the fashion show, which features Abigail's picture this year, please check the box on the sponsorship form and an invitation will be sent to you. We would love to see you there.

I really want to thank you for your support. We really couldn't do it without you.

Kindly, Sharon Hays and Abigail Anderson

## 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](http://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

**Office Hours**

9:30 am to 6:00 pm Weekdays

**Other Useful Numbers**

Platt Security: 986-4484

## MORE FROM THE OFFICE

## Lower Your Taxes

Ruth Ann Lear from the City of Long Beach Historical Society will be the guest at the next board meeting this Wednesday April 2 at 7:00pm. She will be explaining the opportunities in the Mills Act which is State-sponsored legislation (enacted by the State of California in 1976) that grants local government the ability to directly participate in an historic preservation program. More importantly, it's an economic incentive program designed to provide private property owners an opportunity to actively participate in the restoration of their properties while receiving property tax relief.

It provides for a potential 50% reduction in property taxes on qualified historic properties in exchange for the owner's agreement to maintain and preserve the property in accordance with standards established by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior (the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation ).

More info is available from the office, or on the Internet at [www.culturela.org/heritage/millsfaq.htm](http://www.culturela.org/heritage/millsfaq.htm).

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, CONTINUED

light-it should be a perfect place for contemporary art." Matt really loves the physical labor coupled with the beauty he can create.

How did he get from a young boy's passion to this? There were many twists and turns along the way. Matt says, "I was a loner kid, a good student and I played baseball. I've been collecting art and antiques since I can remember." Matt studied psychology at Cal State University Long Beach while deciding on his future. At the time, a friend at UC Berkeley had planned to study abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France, and Matt packed up, spontaneously, and joined her. Not knowing a word of French, she helped him enroll in the University, find an apartment and get through the initial culture shock. Matt found he quickly learned the colloquial French necessary to get along, and after three months, left the South of France for Paris.

There he pursued his French studies as well as working as a model. He was asked to manage an apartment building and act as big brother to the many American models that lived in his building. Now speaking near-fluent French Matt worked part-time as an interpreter for a Saudi Prince and was able to stay nearly a year. He saw everything and visited the Louvre constantly. "I loved Paris." He says. "I would have stayed longer but had a chance to work in Madrid, Spain, and I saw it as an opportunity to work on my Spanish. It seems like a lifetime ago."

After working in Spain for a month, he relocated, again, to Munich, Germany for another work opportunity. Eventually, he came back to the U.S. for family and friends and fell into what he calls a "regular" job.

Back to California, Newport Beach. Matt immediately became involved with a corporate event planning company. He loved working the big parties and boat cruises and helped to open satellite offices in New York, Chicago, Toronto, Orlando, Palm Springs and San Francisco. He even trained a sales team of eight people to cold call in the World Trade Center. Matt says, "I was fearless at that time, I had no idea how sophisticated this market was and what it meant to chose such a competitive location." He had success with that company during his years there but felt he needed to find something more

lucrative and relevant as a long-term career. He says, "I had a chance to work in a stock promotion company and to create a sales team specializing in merger/acquisition work." The work helped hone his skills in sales, bookkeeping and accounting, but working for someone else 12 hours a day became tiresome.

A few years back Matt had purchased his first condo and remodeled and upgraded it. He yearned to go back to renovation work. He chose to work odd construction and design jobs for additional experience and to put himself back in school. He chose court-reporting college and studied for five years to earn a "Real-Time Writing Certificate." "I thought it would be a great career to be able to offer verbatim closed-captioning to the deaf community," Matt states. He now has the skills and believes that no matter what happens, he will always have this to fall back on.

During those five years, Matt got some interesting experience. Matt says, "I met an antique dealer and appraiser in L. A. and became an apprentice of sorts." He worked estate sales and auctions and devised a method of cataloging collections. "My mentor taught me a lot about the business and also kept me busy with construction projects at his house." These were major projects that took years. He designed and built a 150-foot driveway and carport with security gate, and a patio and spa. Eventually, Matt recognized symptoms of Parkinson's

Disease in his friend. He offered additional help with house maintenance, staff and accounting. After several years, the Parkinson's progressed and Matt's position evolved into full-time caregiving. "The job was very stressful at times, being on call 24-hours a day. I took care of him for nearly six years." During which time, Matt finished court-reporting college and bought and remodeled his first house. On his off time he would come back to Long Beach and work on his house. "I had to rip it apart and start all over," he recalls. The challenging physical work and being able to create a place of beauty seemed to be what he needed. "I love to go to the house and be alone with my piano, a pile of books and the garden," Matt says. He hopes to continue working on distressed properties in the future.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT HOOD  
**Have you seen this man? He is known to walk a large dog and care for plants around the Lafayette, among other things.**