



THE LETTER

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

MEET YOUR (SOON TO ARRIVE) NEIGHBOR

Leah, The Certified Hearing Dog

Photo & text by Anne Proffitt

Editors note: (from Wikipedia) A hearing dog is a specific type of assistance dog specifically selected and trained to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired by alerting their handler to important sounds, such as doorbells, smoke alarms, ringing telephones, or alarm clocks. They may also work outside the home, alerting to such sounds such as sirens, forklifts and a person calling the handler's name. Resident Anne Proffitt, who is profoundly deaf, writes about and photographs auto races and cars for a living, and has been on a waiting list for years and is finally getting a hearing dog...Leah!

Coming soon to a hallway near you! Meet Leah the **Certified Hearing Dog**.

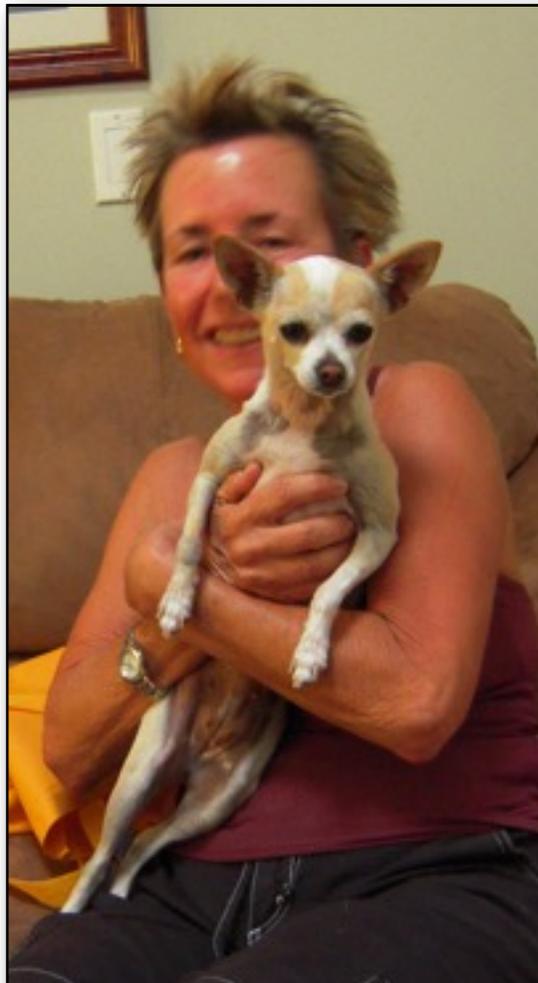
Yes, she's a Chihuahua – the first of her breed to be certified by Barb Velasquez, who has been training hearing dogs for more than 17 years! She's been in training only since June, but Leah has picked up the rigors of her job plenty fast and Barb thinks it's time for us to start working together.

Leah will become a resident of The Lafayette the week of

October 18th, shortly after I return from my next racing road trip. We'll be looking for volunteers – following her **indoctrination** period – to help us with the “door knock” and the “phone ring” and some of the other duties she's learning now at the Sam Simon Foundation in Malibu.

Quite frankly, I'm both excited and nervous about her arrival. Leah has a lot of **spunk** to her and knows she's the boss. When I went to visit her, I took a camera (of course) but it sure was tough to take a picture because she is Ms. Perpetual Motion. Of the 30+ photos I took most were blurry because she keeps moving around.

Because Leah is a “working dog” she will be able to travel with me to all the events I cover. We should make a great team! ☺



IN THIS ISSUE

- MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR
- FROM THE BOARD
- WELCOME
- FYI
- FROM THE MANAGER
- TECH TALK
- ART WALK NEWS

FROM THE BOARD

What's Happening

By Jennifer Skaife, President

Well, September is over and has been a relatively **undramatic** month in the 2009 Lafayette calendar, for which I am grateful!

Security of our buildings is an ongoing issue and a subject I will make mention of regularly in order to drive the point home. We, the residents, are as responsible for the security of this building, our homes, as anyone. It is not "someone else's" job," it is ours as individuals to take responsibility for who we let through the doors, gate, and in the elevators. Apparent acts of kindness can have unfortunate outcomes, so please give careful consideration to whom you lend your keys or give access and consider our community as a whole.

We are scheduling the installation of many more **cameras** throughout Common areas both indoors and out to help deter antisocial behaviors and which will certainly record the perpetrators of such behavior as and when it occurs--for whom there will be consequences.

We are a very dog friendly building and this is a great way to get to know your **doggie neighbors** and their people! Generally speaking we hear of few concerns regarding pets, but once in a while accidents happen in the corridors lobbies or elevators, so if your dog cannot quite make it outside, please clean up immediately, again in consideration of others. Once outside make sure you pick up after him or her as no matter how tiny the K9, poop is still poop...especially adhered to the sole of a shoe, wheel of a pushchair, shopping cart, or bicycle tire. A reminder that our Rules and Regulations clearly state only one dog per unit, and no matter how much I personally would love a companion for my dog in the future, I am obliged to

abide by the Rules.

This month our **Commercial Properties Committee** expanded to include new volunteers Sharon Hays and Eddie Stanton, which brings the committee up to five strong, including Jack Nendel, Laraine Turner and Ed Coutchie. We are finalizing the details with the **Bike Shop** move into the 540 Broadway space, and Carlos Burbano, the new tenant, is now due to move in on October 1, 2009.

The **Bicycle Room Committee** continues to develop their ideas for getting our bikes in the French Room on the ground floor level, but things are never as straightforward as we would wish. It will happen and we will keep you posted!



A great number of our current residents are tenants and may not be fully aware of our **CC&R's** and **Rules and Regulations**. It is incumbent upon the homeowner/landlord to provide copies of these to tenants with the understanding that where relevant they apply to the tenant in the same way they apply to homeowner residents. They are not learned by osmosis, nor do I recommend the trial and error method as it can be expensive and is undoubtedly not neighborly, but by reading. So

even though they may not look like a whole lot of fun, and certainly do not compete with the hottest new mystery novel, perhaps it is time to dig them out of the back of the bottom drawer of the filing cabinet (I speak for myself here) and take a look. If you need a reminder, or have a specific question there is always a copy in the office. Have fun!

Finally a reminder of the protocols of communicating with Boardmembers. Homeowners can attend the monthly board meetings generally held on the first Tuesday evening of each month in the solarium and speak in open forum at the beginning of the meeting, can e-mail the office at lafayet@charterinternet.com, or leave correspondence in our mailboxes in the office. As we are **volunteer** directors of the Lafayette Association

of Homeowners, we cannot enter into any direct LAHO relevant dialogue with tenants. However, if you are a tenant you can either address your issue to the office or through your landlord the homeowner, who in turn can bring it to the attention of the Board. ☞

2nd SATURDAY ART WALK NEWS

Global Rhythm

By Thomas Wasper

On Saturday, October 10th Ashley Hectus will help bring GLOBAL RHYTHM: An Evening of Global Music to Linden Ave as part of 2nd Saturday Art Walk.

Hectus along with her brother Justin have been responsible for many of downtown's music festivals including the wildly successful Busker Fest that brought international singing sensations The Cold War Kids along with thousands of revelers to the East Village back in August.

Is it going to be weird producing this event on your own after working with your brother on so many others?

Justin actually brought this opportunity to me. He helped me select the entertainment for this event and has guided me throughout the production process. We're also very fortunate to have Rod VanBeek of Sound Connection and DJ Travis on board with this event, both who worked with us all summer long on SAM. Bring in our incredibly talented performers...it's definitely a group effort.

Who came up with the theme of Global music for this event?

The Greater Long Beach Arts Lab (GLOBAL for short) is the inaugural citywide celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month in Long Beach every October. There are over 300 events throughout the city during this month. On October 10, the office of Supervisor Don Knabe, the LA County Arts Commission and the Arts Council for Long Beach are contributing a musical extension of the Global theme as part of Second Saturdays.

Tell us about the bands that will be performing.

We have a very exciting line-up! DJ Travis will be warming us up, spinning world music from 4pm until 10pm, between musical guests. Our first featured artist is Long Beach's own Marti Walker. Her styles include Brazilian Samba, bossa nova, Afro/Latin-influenced, Eastern/Indian, World Beat, Pop/Rock and Jazz created through vocals, percussion, flute and other exotic instruments. Then we hope you brought your dancing shoes because next we have SambaLa to shake things up. SambaLa is an outstanding group of musicians and performing bateria (the thundering percussion corps) accompanied by their fabulous costumed (feathered headdresses included) dancers. Our headliner is Paul Livingstone & Arohi Ensemble performing Indian Raga Jazz and creative world music influenced by Brazilian, Spanish, Mexican and Macedonian music. The combination of sounds and styles is enchanting...mesmerizing. Hails Don Heckman of the Los Angeles Times - "The Arohi players... seamlessly combined elements of jazz, Indian classical music and Brazilian rhythms with their own stylistically unfettered improvising."

What are some of the local bands you like?

There is so much musical talent in this city...I love The Dibs, OO Soul, Pawnshop Kings, Deccatree, Deep Sea Diver, Free Moral Agents...Jay Buchanan, Brett Bixby, Chris Paul Overall, Craig Roy. They're all amazing...I know I'm missing a ton.

I still listen to Mention, Twelvehourmary, One Way Ride, Ruby Diver, Wonderlove, Speaker, Mickey's Big Mouth and Buchanan all the time...while I wait patiently and hopefully for them to reunite...

What kind of music are you listening to in your personal life? Mark Kozelek, Travis, Stereophonics, Elliott Smith, The Black Crowes, Denison Witmer, Ryan Adams, The Beatles, Prince, Jude, Jeff Buckley, PJ Harvey, The 88, Radiohead, Nick Drake, Joseph Arthur...

What can we expect from Ashley Hectus in the future? I will be collaborating on other shows between now and Summer and Music 2010! Stay tuned! ☞

<http://www.artwalklb.com>

<http://globallb.com>

Wi-Fi Hotspot now in the Lobby

By Geronimo Quitoriano

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Board has decided to share the office's internet connection with residents during weekday evenings (6pm - 10pm) and on weekends (10am - 10pm). If you have a laptop computer or other device with wireless connectivity (iPod Touch, PSP), you can access the Internet using Wi-Fi (wireless networks) in the lobby and library area on the 1st floor. Join the network named **LafayetteWiFi**. No password is needed!

Note, the Lafayette is *NOT* responsible for your use of the Wi-Fi network! There is a security warning and disclaimer in the display case. Please read it! As a reminder, no food or drink in the lobby!

After a little googling, here are five quick tips to enjoy the convenience of public Wi-Fi and help to protect your privacy:

1. Use a firewall

If your computer uses Windows Vista or Windows XP and you've installed Service Pack 2, you have a built-in firewall that's turned on by default. You can configure Windows Firewall to provide better protection when you're using a public wireless network. On a Mac, go to System Preferences to configure it.

2. Upgrade your browser

The word on the web is that Internet Explorer 8 is the safest browser on Windows. If you are using IE7 (which is considered very unsafe), consider upgrading to IE8 or try Mozilla Firefox or Apple's Safari for better security. On the Mac side, IE8 is unavailable, but Firefox and Safari are great! I actually use a Mac-flavored version of Firefox called Camino. As always, check to see that you have the latest software updates!

3. Hide your files and turn off File Sharing

If you keep personal or financial information on your computer, consider investing in an operating system, such as Windows Vista, that includes the

tools to protect your information through encryption. On a Mac, go to system preferences and turn on FileVault to encrypt your home folder. Also turn off File Sharing on your computer.

4. Don't type in credit card numbers or passwords

If you want to be safe, avoid typing any sensitive information, such as your credit card number or any other financial information, while you use a public wireless network.

Tip: If you must enter credit card numbers while using a public wireless network, make sure there is a locked padlock icon at the bottom right corner of the browser window, and make sure the Web address begins with https: (the "s" stands for secure).

5. Turn off your wireless network when you're not using it

If you're not surfing the Internet or sending e-mail, but still using your computer in an area where there is a public wireless network, disable your wireless connection. ☞



Starting Monday, **Sept. 28, 2009** you can enjoy F-R-E-E internet in the main lobby compliments of the Lafayette. Please **NO** eating or drinking in the lobby!

HOURS:

Mon. – Fri. 6pm to 10pm

Sat. & Sun. 10am to 10pm

A VIEW FROM THE 6TH FLOOR

Love and Marriage

By Thomas Wasper

The recession, or whatever they're calling it, has been hitting all of us pretty hard. And sometimes because of it we find ourselves doing things for money that we swore we would never do under any circumstances.

Last weekend I agreed to photograph a wedding.

As a photojournalist I have always considered the wedding to be work of a last resort. I don't like the pressure from the families or the unoriginality of the staged photos they always request. I don't want to be accused of mucking up the most important day of their lives. Well, until their divorce, anyways. Funny, no one ever hires a photographer for that event.

I met the bride and groom and they both agreed they wanted casual photos taken of their wedding. A few staged shots, but mostly candid's. And they even managed to make the obligatory friends and family photos fun by camping them up. Bridesmaids kissing each other, kissing breasts, kissing the groom's...well, let's say they made it interesting. All in all, it was going better than I ever expected it to.

There was one flaw in the day, however.

Earlier I had been standing next to a three-tiered platform covered with miniature-frosted cakes, sneaking the occasional one into my mouth and waiting for the big show to begin.

A woman walked over and stood near me. She had big hair and even bigger eyes. Not cute like Bambi's, more like the Runaway Bride's. Scary eyes, with a whole lot of white surrounding those crazy, bobbing pupils. I made conversation while she tried to bore holes through my head with her stare.

"Have some cake, it's really good," I said to her.

"Do you really like it?" She asked.

"Yeah, it's great," I said. "And I found the cake stash under the table, so we can replace them as we swipe 'em. Try one."

"I made them," she said pressing her scary bulging eyes against my forehead. "My name is Maria. I'm so glad you like them. I stayed up all night baking and I just thank God that they turned out okay for the wedding."

"Yeah, they're really tasty..."

"Oh, I am so thankful that I had the Lord's blessing as I baked all night long and I just don't know what I would have done if they hadn't turned out."

"Well, don't worry, they turned out great," I said.

"I promised I would have these cakes made in time for the wedding and with God's help..."

As she continued rambling on about her and God up all night in her soul kitchen baking treats I was wondering if whatever she took to keep her going all night had not yet worn off or if she was this way naturally. Either way, I raised my camera to my face as if I had just seen a shot that needed to

be taken and wandered away from her and into the crowd.

I spent about three hours at the wedding, said my goodbyes and headed out.

I was leaning against the car reviewing some of the photos I had shot when I saw her walking across the parking lot. I had noticed her earlier during the reception. She was beautiful. Not wedding-pretty, her beauty would hold its own in any setting. She could have been walking to her car or looking for a friend, but I knew she wasn't. She had come out here looking for me.

You know how sometimes you can tell what's going to happen before it actually does? I had that feeling once right before my name was drawn out of a box to win a free trip to Hawaii. I was halfway out of my seat heading toward the stage when my name was finally read.

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Well, this was like that. I knew exactly how this was going to play out when I saw her walking towards me.

“Are you single?” she asked.

You see? I knew she was going to ask me that. It was like we were both reading from a script.

“I am,” I replied flashing her my biggest smile, tilting my head just so to catch a ray of sunshine off my front incisor.

“Really? Good. Because my aunt wants to go out with you.”

“Well, I... What?”

Somebody had switched scripts on me! Had there been a rewrite that I wasn't aware of?

“She's really hot and I think you should go out with her,” She continued, as I stood there stunned.

“She's got dark hair and her name is Marie.”

“I don't...uh...well, I'm not...um...”

I was stammering like an idiot. My confidence had evaporated and I couldn't find my place in the goddamn script! I just needed everything to slow down for a minute!

Wait...did she say..Marie? The crazy cake lady?! Nonononono! I had to get out of here.

She was still talking.

“What?” I said.

“Do you have a card?”

I slapped my pockets in a feeble show of searching for one.

“No. No card. Sorry.”

“Give me your email address. Do you have a pen?” She said.

I gave my pockets another slap.

“Um, nope. No pen either.”

My brain was screaming! I gotta go! I gotta go! I gotta go!

“Tell you what,” I said. “Go to my Flickr site. You can contact me there. I...um...I have to go now.”

As she turned and walked back to the celebration I thought to myself, “God! I hate working weddings!”

SOCIAL STUFF

The Birthday Gal

by Geronimo Quitoriano & Photos by Rozzie Rainbow

We celebrated manager **Sharon Hay's** birthday in the lobby on Thursday, September 3 (FYI, her actual b-day is the 4th). We had a special birthday hat for her that cutely matched the one she wore in her oh-so-cute baby picture that was posted in the elevators!

Special thanks to: **Josefina** and **Lester Mijangos** of Western Building Maintenance for the cake, balloon and flowers and **Rozzie Rainbow** for her photography skills!

Sharon thanks everyone who took the time to stop by, drop off a card or gift and wish her a happy birthday even though each year she tries to forget!



Baby Sharon



Geronimo

Rozzie



Sharon



Announcements!

Congratulations to Mollie Seebok and Gregory Lide on the birth of their baby boy, **Kian Lide**, on Friday, Sept. 4, 2009 weighing in at 6 lbs. 15 3/4 oz.! He also shares his b-day with Lafayette manager



Sharon Hays and residents Julie Nemechek and LaByron Clayton!

Heather Shaughnessy and **Aaron "Buddha" Chiancola** recently got married on Sep. 19, 2009! The honeymoon was in beautiful Greece!

On a sad note, we were notified that longtime resident **Howard Jacobson** died in August. ☹



WELCOME TO THE LAFAYETTE

New Residents

Unit 403 Kian Lide

Unit 554 David Castillo

Unit 858 James Loesch

540 Broadway The LB Bike Shop

ALL RESIDENTS: Remember no bicycles in the main lobby. Window coverings must be white or off-white! And the two green dumpsters in the garden are for recycling only! No trash please. ☹



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Who's Who at the Lafayette

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jennifer Skaife

VP: Dennis Cornax

Secretary: Eddie Stanton

VP: Irene Bisson

Treasurer: Rick Blackshere

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 you may email them through the office: lafayet@charterinternet.com.

In **person**: Come to the board meetings usually every first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Solarium (11th floor Campbell Building) unless a schedule change has been posted.

OFFICE MANAGER

Sharon Hays

Phone: 562-436-5391 9:30am to 5pm weekdays

Fax: 562-436-8762 Cell: 562-499-9979

Email: lafayet@charterinternet.com

Reminder: Meeting minutes may be viewed at the office.

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

7pm in the Solarium

- **Call to Order**
- **Open Forum** (3 min each homeowner)
- **President's Report**: Jennifer Skaife
- **Treasurer's Report**: Rick Blackshere
- **Committee Reports** (Commercial Properties, Social, Historical & Nonprofit, Bicycle Room, Storage)
- **Unfinished Business** (Painting Lafayette/Broadway Buildings: awaiting colors)
- **New Business** (Security Camera options around building)
- **Adjournment** 📄

Calendar

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Soundwalk 2009

5-10pm in the East Village

A one-night multi-sensory experience as conveyed through sound art that is situated in various indoor and outdoor spaces (including the Lafayette's Embassy "Dome" Room and the 144 Linden space). Plus, it's FREE!

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Board Meeting

7pm @ 11th floor Solarium

NEWSLETTER TEAM

SHARON HAYS

ANNE PROFFIT

GERONIMO QUITORIANO

JENNIFER SKAIFE

THOMAS WASPER



THE LAFAYETTE LETTER IS PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LETTER, PLEASE CONTACT GERONIMO AT (562) 435-4775 OR EMAIL: GPOLAROID@MAC.COM.