

THE LETTER

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

MONEY MATTERS


Electronic Invoices

By Leo Bell, Treasurer

The LHOA is in the process of implementing **electronic invoicing** through Bank of America.

Participation is **voluntary**, but we hope most homeowners will avail themselves of this service as it will eliminate paperwork for both you and the Lafayette. If you are not already participating and to do so, please notify the office and provide them with your e-mail address. The first time you receive an invoice (*see example*), you will be given instructions to

set up your payment through B of A's online system. Please allow for a few days to set this up, so your payment will be received on time. Currently, only **checking and savings accounts** can be used for payment, though I am hopeful that credit cards will be added in the future. Once your payment information is set up, then future invoices can be paid just by clicking a **link** on the invoice and your funds will be directly deposited in the Lafayette checking account. If you are currently receiving e-mail invoices and do not wish to continue, again please notify the office. Note that there is **no charge** for this service unless you choose to expedite your payment. You should not need to do so unless you are submitting your payment after the 10th of the month. You do not need an account with Bank of America to participate. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at leo@thetaxguylb.com.

				
SAMPLE INVOICE				
Qty/Hours	Product/Service name	Description	Unit price/ Hourly rate	Amount
1.0	LHOA DUES - #999	LHOA Dues	\$ 109.00	\$ 109.00
Subtotal:				\$ 109.00
Total:				\$ 109.00
Current Payables Summary				
Current Open	10/28/2011 - 09/28/2011 (0-30 days)	09/27/2011 - 08/29/2011 (31-60 days)	08/28/2011 - 07/30/2011 (61-90 days)	Total
\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	

FROM THE MANAGER

Condo Comments

By Sharon Hays, Manager

As a reminder when using the **gym**, please put away all weights back on the appropriate racks. Also, some free weights are missing from the gym. Please return so all may use.

The Lafayette has had a recycling program in place for a few years now but it appears some residents are placing trash into the recycling bins. Please place paper, cans, glass and other **recyclables** in the trash closet bins with the **clear liner**. Normal **trash** is placed in the bin with the **black liner**. In the garden area on the ground floor, green dumpsters are for recycling and the blue dumpsters are for trash. If your item does not fit into the closet, please bring it down to the dumpster area. Thank you. ☺

ANNOUNCEMENT

Meet the Baby

The Letter is pleased to announce the birth of **Troy Lira** on Friday, October 21, 2011 (Weight 5 lbs., 7 ounces. Height 18"). Best wishes to proud parents Giedre and Patrick as well as Troy's older brother, Taurus. ☺



AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE

R. Douglas Jacobs

Photo and interview by Thom Wasper

The name of your book is *Gethsemane*, which was the scene of the betrayal of Jesus. Is this a religion based work?

You're one of the few individual I've encountered who actually knows the story behind Gethsemane from an historical context. Yes, Gethsemane was the "Garden of Agony," the very place where Christ questioned his purpose prior to receiving the all-infamous kiss from Judas Iscariot. From a metaphorical perspective, the story of Gethsemane is one I believe we all, as human beings, can relate to when it comes to questioning what it is we were brought on this earth to do. We've either had that moment in our lives, continue to experience those questions in our lives, or will arrive at the moment when we openly make that appeal to a higher source in pleading, "Why? Why me?"

The subtitle of your book is "An Epic Poem About Us". Who is us? You and me? Or is it someone more personal to you?

"Us" are we as a collective—the human race. I wrote this story for all people to read and felt it was only appropriate to add the subtitle to serve as a universal greeting to welcome anyone who inadvertently crosses the pathway of this book.

Your last book, *The Rhymes of Love and Reason*, was a collection of sonnets. What made you go with the long poem for your followup?

As an artist, you always want to strive at doing something that is exceptional, yet quite unique. I always respected artists who have the courage to dare

Note: Raymond Douglas Jacobs is an author and resident of the Lafayette. Following is an interview in which Jacobs discusses his sophomore effort due out in November.

themselves in that manner. It was not by design that I chose to write an epic poem. But the more I thought about it, the more I felt challenged in attempting something that no one had really done before. For one, this genre of an epic poem is all but extinct given its complexities. But, rather than adhere to its conformity (which I never do), I decided to invent something entirely different by combining the sonnet and ode structure into rhyme.

On the outside looking in, it was conceptually insane. But, in the inside looking out, I felt a sublime sense of discovery that was inexplicable.

Were there additional challenges you faced in writing an epic compared to a more traditional style of poetry?

Each verse was a challenge in itself. Some verses could take a couple of weeks to compose while others could be thought out and written in a day. For example, verse eighteen took more than three weeks to do since I was really explaining why it is the protagonist in the story (Lucifer) crossed over by exhibiting sympathy for what was really unknown to him, which is darkness. I retreated at that point from writing and didn't resume work on the book for almost six months. The first act, which was originally thirty-eight verses, took more than one year to write, whereas the second act took about six months to write, and the third act (which is the longest) was completed in just two months time. Overall, the structure I

introduced was comparable to designing a jigsaw puzzle without any thought as to how the seams would be integrated.

Does one decide to become a poet or is that something you're born with? How did it come about for you?

I can't really speak for anyone either than myself. But in saying that, I believe there is an innate talent in all of us. What that talent may be is dependent on

first, realizing that talent, and, then, nurturing that talent. I knew at a very early age (I was twelve) that I had the ability to write as a means of expression. I just didn't know how that ability would manifest itself unless I was willing to foster it. The more I wrote, the more I felt enlightened. Still, I never felt that I was in control of what I wrote, which is really what makes writing majestic. In a way, I've always allowed my ability to write verse to guide me, and that journey continues for me, even now.

What are your plans in regards to marketing? Do you have any readings or public appearances scheduled to promote your book?

I do, although nothing has been set yet. Starting this January, I plan to make an announcement on upcoming appearances to coincide with the release of my book at certain bookstores. I'm also entertaining the idea of creating a one-man play that would allow me to present *Gethsemane* in a theatrical setting, which I always find intimate. For now, however, I would advise people to visit my website and check in regularly for updates as it pertains to the appearances I'll be making in the future. My web address is www.rdjpublishing.com.[☞]



PICTURE THIS

Deco in the Details

By Geronimo Quitoriano

Local photographer **J. Christopher Launi** captured beautiful black & white images of the Art Deco Lafayette which are currently on display at District Wine, 144 Linden Avenue.

The exhibit entitled “Deco in the Details” opened with a reception, hosted by District Wine, on Friday, October 28 in the Lafayette's lobby to coincide with the **82nd anniversary** of the grand opening of the original hotel. Also

present was **Bob Schilling**, son of architect Cecil Schilling who along with his brother Arthur designed the original building. Photos from the Shilling archives were displayed in the lobby, highlighting the original architectural details that were present in 1929, such as the original Art Deco canopy, that have since been removed or renovated. Many thanks to Manager Sharon Hays and Board member Nathandra Renée Boudoi who volunteered at the event. 📷



L-R: Photographer J. Christopher Launi, Lafayette Board member Kavita Rodrigues, District Wine co-owner Angela Mesa and Vice-Mayor & Councilmember Suja Lowenthal. Lowenthal presented Rodrigues with a proclamation from the City signed by Mayor Bob Foster commemorating the 82nd anniversary of the opening of the Lafayette Hotel.

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION



What is P.B.I.D.?

By Sharon Hays, Manager

Homeowners at the Lafayette may be interested in getting involved with the other

Downtown homeowners who are opposing the DLBA's (Downtown Long Beach Association) efforts to assess residential homeowner fees approximately **\$150** per year per unit for their services on your property taxes.

Currently the special district is funded by mandatory assessments on downtown businesses and commercial property owners. Since the Lafayette has commercial properties, the Association currently pays into the PBID (Property Based Improvement District) fund through commercial property taxes. This PBID special district has to be authorized by voters every 10 years and the next authorization is due in 2012. The process involves a planning period (going on currently) and then getting signed petitions to put the change on the ballot (early 2012) and then a vote by the affected property owners (also in early 2012).

However, the vote would be by a “majority of the weighted assessments,” which means that those that pay 51% of the assessment, in all likelihood a

Help make the Lafayette an even better place in 2012



Seeking nominations for the Board of Directors

If interested, please contact the office at (562) 436-5391 or sharon@thelafayettelb.org

majority of commercial property owners, would have more say than residential owners.

If you would like to get involved in preventing this issue making it to the ballot, please email downtown.homeowners.unite@gmail.com. The group recently had an informational meeting at Harborplace Tower on October 18 which was attended by a few Lafayette residents. The group is a coalition of downtown residents who have come together to make their voices heard in opposition to the "tax" proposed by the PBID which was formed to support the DLBA.

Actions they propose are:

- Join the group and help plan a strategy.
- Provide your email so they can update you on progress.



FOR RENT

2 bed, 2 bath **562-436-7201**
 8th floor condo, corner unit, ocean and city views. Includes one (1) parking spot. Furnished or unfurnished. Call Linda.

1 bed, 2 bath **\$1,300** **562-754-9941**
 5th floor condo, corner unit. Call Jack.

1 bed, 1 bath **\$1,045** **562-434-0924**
 7th floor condo includes one (1) parking spot.

1 bed, 1 bath **\$995** **562-822-2802**
 5th floor condo includes one offsite (1) parking spot. Water and trash included. Onsite gym and laundry. Call Lorenzo.


FOR SALE

Penthouse **\$825,000** **562-900-3888**
 11th floor condo (2,400 sq ft), 17 ft. ceilings, 2 bathrooms, 2-4 bedrooms; Private large deck area, spacious loft with stairs, walk-in closets, washer & dryer.

Commercial Condo **562-754-9941**
 \$129,000 (268 sq ft)

Commercial Condo **562-453-5870**
 \$125,000 (272 sq ft)

Commercial Condo **562-843-0496**
 \$99,000 (198 sq ft)


www.thelafayettelb.org


- Contact your local City Council member Suja Lowenthal of the 2nd District.
- Attend a City Council meeting and protest this double taxation.
- Send a letter to the editor of the Press Telegram, Downtown Gazette or other media outlets.
- Find a lawyer who is willing to challenge this in court.
- Contact commercial property owners and solicit their support.
- Remind homeowners and commercial property owners NOT to sign the petitions which will be circulated in January 2012.

FYI, an information sheet from the DLBA is available: www.downtownlongbeach.org/pbidfaq

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Who's Who at the Lafayette

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Joe Hill 1st VP: Kavita Rodrigues
 2nd VP: Anne Proffit Treasurer: Leo Bell
 Secretary: Nathandra Renee Boudois

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: sharon@thelafayettelb.org

In **person**: Come to the board meetings usually every first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Mezzanine (2nd floor Lafayette Building by main lobby) unless a schedule change has been posted.

OFFICE MANAGER

Sharon Hays Phone: 562-436-5391 9:30am to 5pm weekdays
 Fax: 562-436-8762
 Email: sharon@thelafayettelb.org

Reminder: Meeting minutes may be viewed at the office or are available for download on our website thelafayettelb.org.

Calendar

Thu., Nov. 3, 2011

Regular Board meeting
 2nd floor Mezzanine
 7pm

Thu., Nov. 24, 2011

THANKSGIVING
 Office Closed

Fri., Nov. 25, 2011

Day after THANKSGIVING
 Office Closed

WELCOME TO THE LAFAYETTE

New Residents

- Unit 352** **Alba Barrientos**
- Unit 532** **Juan-Carlos Lopez-Melgar**
- Unit 634** **Troy Lira** (see baby photo page 2)
- Unit 641** **Tonya Scoffield**
- Unit 761** **Heath Kirchart**
- Unit 852** **Kristy Bautista**
- Unit 1055** **Natalie & Troy Rulmyr**

ALL RESIDENTS: Remember no bicycles in the Main Lobby. Window coverings must be white or off-white! In the trash closets, place trash in the black bag and recycling in the clear bag. Please make sure to read the rules in the move-in packet. Thank you and welcome to the Lafayette.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

- SHARON HAYS
- GERONIMO QUITORIANO
- THOM 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.