



# THE LETTER

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2004

WWW.THELAFAYETTELB.ORG

ISSUE #33

## IN THIS ISSUE

- BELATED NEWS AND THANK-YOUS
- I AIN'T AFRAID A NO GHOST
- WHO'S WHO
- MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Open

*By Thea Robertshaw*

"Open" is the new bookstore in the Lafayette. In "Open" we find a treasure trove of old books hand-picked by Shea Gauer and Sé Reed. Entering the store we get a feeling of intimacy, aesthetics and warmth. Shea speaks of "the art of the printed word," "a purveyor of experiences" and "books that feed the soul." Together Shea Gauer and Sé Reed have created an ambiance that invites us to enter a timeless world of literature.

Shea worked at Borders for a few years and Sé at Barnes & Noble. Then they met at the Book Baron and the idea for the bookstore was born. They had become frustrated with the corporate environment and wanted something more personal and creative.

I had met Shea some years ago when he took my "Art and the Self" class at Long Beach City College. I was impressed with him then. He stood apart for his intelligence, creativity and sincerity. Now he has put much of that passion into the bookstore.

It certainly was a pleasure to meet Sé Reed, who has the energy to match her enthusiasm. "Open" reflects their diverse personalities and insight into the world of literature. Meeting their friends and family at their soft opening gave us a feeling of class, soft music, interesting conversations and a curiosity for the world of books. Sé says, "My greatest interest is in government in general; politics, philosophy and religion." Sé and Shea see "Open" as a resource for the community, a place to acquire information on current events and community happenings in Long Beach and the world. Sé speaks of cafes in Paris where people meet to discuss topics of interest. In this vein, in January they began to carry magazines and newspapers from the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal and of course the Press-Telegram. "Open" is planning book discussion groups, films, spoken word, experimental music, other performances and much more.

All their books will be databased in the coming months. If you are looking for a particular book, they will locate it for you. If they don't have it, they will order it.

Just think of the possibilities at "Open." The thesaurus will give you some clues to its meaning. Open: unbarred, uncovered, unobstructed, unsealed, available, free, accessible, public, exposed, unrestricted, explicit, unreserved, expand, expose, reveal, unfold, unlock. "Open"—the art of the printed word—is all of these and more. "Open" may have that special hard to find gift that you've been looking for.

"Open," 144 Linden Ave., Long Beach, in the East Village Arts District. 562-499-OPEN. 11am to 7pm daily.



PHOTO BY GERONIMO QUITORIANO

**They're Open! Sé and Shea welcome you browse, chat and naturally buy something you won't find anywhere else.**

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

# New Board of Directors for 2004

At the annual homeowners meeting of last January 14th, the three openings on the Board of Directors were filled. Two new officers are Joe Hill, 1st VP, and Frank Flores, Secretary. Lou Schor was elected to another term as 1st VP. All the new officers will serve terms of two years, as required by the CC&Rs. Bill Guzik continues as President, and Andy Blinn continues but has switched his role to Treasurer for 2004.

## Thank-yous

Also announced at the annual meeting were the names of volunteers who have contributed their time and efforts to various projects in the past year. The Letter would also like to recognize them here: Leo Bell, Ed Coutchie, Frank Flores, Matt Hood, Marilyn Jolley, Joe Marrs, Paula Matusa, Chris Mount, Julie Nemecek, Geronimo Quitoriano, Michelene Roth, Barbara Say, Barbara Schultz, Dean Troup, and Laraine Turner.

It takes more than just one manager and a volunteer board of directors to run a historic condo this size, and every other owner and resident who volunteers their time and energy toward making this a better place to live is heartily appreciated.

## Live/Work Loft Project

David White from the City's Redevelopment Agency (RDA) gave a progress-update presentation on the artist live/work loft project that has been in the planning stages for several years now. After the meeting, a committee of interested homeowners was formed to discuss the benefits and drawbacks to the Association of partnering with the City in the development of

the project. The City has set a new deadline of July 8 for the LAHO to begin construction, and several preliminary steps must be completed before then.

The RDA has proposed providing funding with beneficial terms to the LAHO for this project. Upon extensive remodeling of the interior, the units, which would be leased to registered artists, will be located in the Campbell building's Mona Fine ballroom and the vacant Wedding Chapel space above it. See the office for further details if you are interested.

## Koo's Update

A meeting between Koo's Art Center directors, LAHO board members and concerned residents was held to discuss the problems and come to some conclusions about the next steps to take regarding noise and crowd control issues.

Koo's has been working on modifying their crowd control procedures and their music schedules to reduce the impact of its operation on residents. Further sound testing and isolation work is planned for this month. More details are expected after the next board meeting. Stay tuned.

## Hallway Lighting

The Architecture & Interior Design committee is continuing its work on completing the hallway lighting program for the complex. Problematic wiring areas have been identified and electrical contractors will be contacted over the next few months. The committee is expecting completion of the much-delayed project later this year.

## Trash

Please remember to put all trash inside the dumpsters. Any items left on the ground will not be taken away. Also, the hallway trash closets are for normal household trash, not large objects. Please take them out and place in a dumpster.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

# Who's Who at the Lafayette

### 2003 Board of Directors

*President:* Bill Guzik

*First Vice-President:* Joe Hill

*Second Vice-President:* Lou Schor

*Treasurer:* Andy Blinn

*Secretary:* Frank Flores

### 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 Mezzanine (2nd floor of main lobby).

### Contact the Office

*Phone:* 436-5391 9:30am to 6pm weekdays

## PEEK INTO THE PAST

## Ghost Stories

By Mollie Sebok

So you say you don't believe in ghosts? Haven't heard any strange noises you can't account for? Haven't observed a glimpse of something and then with a closer look, you decide there is nothing there? Haven't you heard any phantom footsteps on the new 2003 carpeting and thought of the decades past?

Well if you refuse to believe, and if you are of the female persuasion, perhaps you should take a visit up to the eighth floor of the Campbell building where there have been reports of a mischievous apparition who reportedly has been a nuisance to the pretty ladies for a few generations of tenants. It has been said that he likes to follow women through the hallways, and has even been sensed watching them while they sleep. The men on the eighth floor don't seem to have the same experiences with this mysterious fellow. Or, on the fourth floor of the Campbell building where a hired "psychic" detected the spirit of a disgruntled ex-hotel employee who roams the halls carrying a block of ice with claw-like ice holders. A newer tenant in the building has also stated that her animals have been acting strangely, barking and staring at things that are invisible to the human eye, which would be quite disturbing to anyone who thinks they know their pets. Another rumor is of a former chef in the basement kitchen, who insists that "something" always had an eye on him. These are only a few instances of ghost sightings—all people are probably different in their sensitivity toward seeing these types of things.

Have you ever had trouble getting out of the Lafayette lobby when both doors puzzlingly won't open? Sometimes you need to take a few steps back, try again and then the door will open if you are lucky. Perhaps that is the middle-aged balding spirit (seen by supposedly more than one person) in a loop-like state of rushing up to that same lobby door over and over. Maybe he is just trying to make getting out of the building just as difficult for us as it seems to be for him.

In any case, whether or not you believe in ghosts, you must admit that there are definitely some vivid energies to be felt as one walks the halls of this seventy-plus year old building. Think of all the different things that have happened in the hallways, let alone the individual rooms of the buildings. The good things that have happened, the great things, the bad things and the worst of things. The swinging hotel life of the '40s, '50s and '60s probably changed as much as the styles and fashions of clothing. We are all very lucky to live in a



Is that a ghost or just a ghosted image in this historic photo from the Lafayette?

building which is not only very beautiful, but with so much character, from the spirit world to the everyday monotony of life. So if you find yourself having a ghost-like feeling or sight, please tell your neighbors—you can be sure they will appreciate it.

# FOR SALE

TWO DISPLAY CABINETS WITH LIGHTED GLASS SHELVES AND DRAWERS. LIGHTBULB INCLUDED. \$175 EA. OBO. CONTACT SE AT "OPEN" 562-499-OPEN (499-6736).