

### *President's Message*

As I write, the holiday season is upon us and a celebratory mood fills the air. Noting the crowds in the stores, one might forget the range of challenges that face the economy, our country and the world at large. Not that we should lose our festive spirit but perhaps we can all take time to reflect on the state of our world and resolve to make a difference in the coming year.

Knowing that the New Year always brings forth an abundance of forecasts and prognostications, let me be among the first to predict:

- After years of fierce lobbying, Annette Knox's long held dream will be realized and the Council will hold its first ever "talent show." Annette's rendition of Little Nell so impresses the audience she wins the contest by acclamation.

- 2008 will see a Council meeting in which Walt Youngman cannot lay claim to even one guest.

- Bill Burke will attend a Council meeting and not once utter the word insurance.

- In 2008, it will come to light that Jim King was has actually been employing silver hair dye for years. Left untouched, his true hair color is a rather shocking red. "How can you be credible with that?" he'll be heard to exclaim.

- Following a Christmas epiphany, Neil Anderson will take a vow of silence to devote his life to a contemplation of the universe.

- And in news that will rock the music world, 2008 will be the year in which Doug Bohne finally acknowledges that he is indeed Elvis' love child. Following his announcement, Doug will depart on a pilgrimage to Grace-land to commune with the King.

While it remains to be seen if my

### **"Tax Issues and Strategy for Domestic Partners"**

California's Domestic Partnership Law provides unique challenges for those engaged in planning for domestic partners. Our January speaker, **Donald Read**, will discuss the rights of domestic partners in California and how they may conflict with federal law. His presentation will review:

- Federal "respect" for community property rights of California Registered Domestic Partners.
- Federal DOMA and use of "spouse", "husband", and "wife" in the Internal Revenue Code.
- California joint returns vs. Federal individual returns and conflicting positions on community income splitting.
- Constitutionality, income and gift tax issues for domestic partners.
- Planning implications in addressing this conflicting legal environment.

**Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

*Lafayette Park Hotel  
3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette*

*6:00 PM. Wine and Registration  
6:30 PM Dinner and Speaker*

**Cost: \$40.00 dinner (if mailed in)  
\$45.00 (at the door)**

*Reservations and cancellations must  
be received by Monday, Jan 14th, at  
1:30 p.m. to be assured of a  
reservation. Please send your check in  
the enclosed envelope today! or call  
Bonni at:*

**925.686.4819**

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predictive powers hold, there is one prediction for the future that is certain to be true – dinner fees for our monthly meetings are increasing. After holding the line for the last two years, we're increasing our monthly meeting fee to offset the increase in costs charged by the Lafayette Park Hotel. **Our new dinner fees will be \$40 if paid in advance and \$45 at the door** (and still a bargain for such great networking and camaraderie). Happy Holidays!

Don was admitted to practice in California in 1969 and has been a certified taxation law specialist since 1981. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. He received his J.D., cum laude, from Columbia University School of Law and his LL.M. (in taxation) from New York University. He is currently vice-chair of the ABA Family Law Section's Taxation Committee.

Since 1987, Don's practice focus has had a concentration on family law tax problems. As vice-chair of the ABA Taxation Section's Domestic Relations Committee, Don worked with the IRS Chief Counsel in developing Rev. Ruls. 2002-22 and 2004-60 (division of stock options) and with the Treasury department in developing regulations under Internal Revenue Code section 1041 regarding stock redemptions and section 121 regarding the sale of principal residences. He has represented taxpayers in securing numerous private letter rulings and is actively working to obtain full federal community property taxation rights for California registered domestic partners.

Join us on January 16th!