

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center For Urban Runoff And Watershed Research

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January, 2006

## VOLUNTEER LETTER



**OTHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TOO:** In addition to clean-up, the Institute needs volunteers for hands-on, watershed projects. This month we need YOU to help with our rain barrel project, which can:

- Reduce urban runoff
- Bring art to your neighborhood
- Store water for when the big earthquake hits
- Educate folks about watersheds
- Conserve irrigation water

We will begin by purchasing rain barrels, which will be decorated by local artists. The barrels will be displayed at business, yards, parks and anywhere else we can show them. A watershed education brochure will be available at the displays, teaching people about how reducing urban runoff improves water quality. Decorated barrels will be sold to raise funds for the Institute.

So how can you help? We need people to order the barrels, to find display places, to coordinate the artists, to produce an educational handout, to transport them, to obtain and install the downspout kits, to advertise and to oversee sales and shipping. So pick your topic and contact us at 238-2290 or [lmi@netwiz.net](mailto:lmi@netwiz.net).

**DAYS OF RAIN AND RUNOFF:** December brought 10.38 inches of rain, a broken barrier at the Embarcadero, thousands of pounds of trash and tons of duckweed to Lake Merritt. For an update on the duckweed, see our January "Tidings" newsletter for Institute members. For trash, see Lake Merritt.

As this is being written, the trash is drifting with the wind, piling up on the beaches, hiding under docks and in storm drains, and lurking under the duckweed. This is not the way our Lake should be, so come on down to the bottom of your watershed and help us clean it up – every Tuesday at 10:30, every Saturday at 10, or whenever you want by using one of the four the "U-Clean-It" boxes. Dial 1-3-1-4 to open the box lock and access gloves, bags, trash barrels and nets. Thanks.



*Head Royce Students  
clean up Crew*



*St. Paul's Parents  
clean up crew*

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