

The Lake Merritt Institute

LAKE TRASH REMOVAL, FOUNTAINS, EDUCATION, LAKE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE

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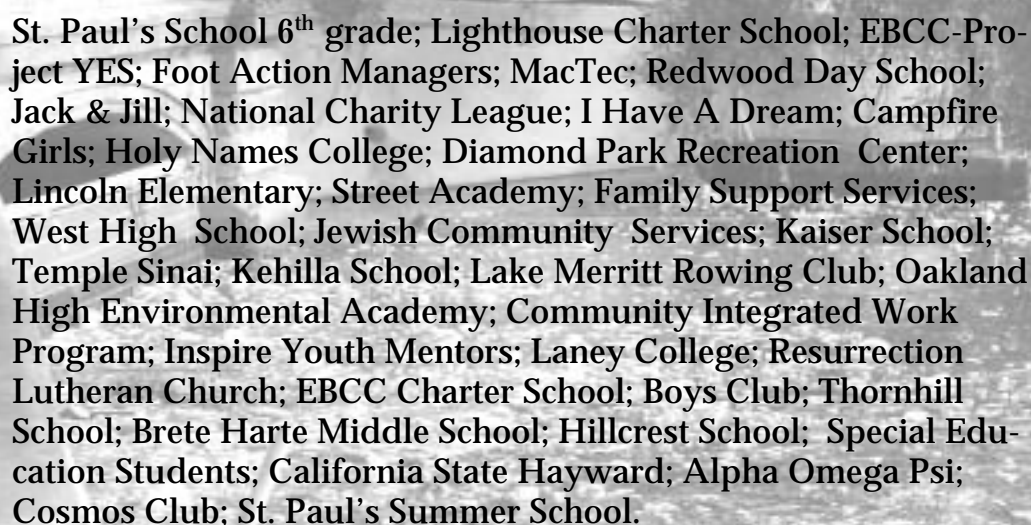
JACK LONDON AQUATIC CENTER SPONSORS SPRING & SUMMER RECREATION: Would your church, youth, community or neighborhood group like a special kayaking program? If so, contact DeDe Birch at 208-6060 ext. 1 or director@jlac.org. No experience is necessary and the Center will provide the kayaks, wet suits, life-preservers, paddles and skilled instructors. Programs can be tailored to meet your organization's needs.

Events already scheduled include:

- Kids in Kayaks (Four sessions of five afternoons in April, June, July and August). This is for students in 6th to 10th grades, and you don't even have to know how to swim. Cost \$100 with fee waivers available.
- Friday Evening Twilight Kayaking (5 – 8 pm on May 21, June 25, July 16 and August 13). Only \$10 and no experience is necessary. Imagine yourself drifting on the water at sunset.
- Family Paddling in Double Kayaks (Saturdays, 8 – noon on May 1, 8, 15, 22; June 26, July 17, August 14). Cost \$10 with fee waivers available. Children must be 10 years or older and accompanied by an adult. No experience is necessary.
- Learn to Single-Scull (Two day sessions will be held on June 5-6, July 10-11, and August 7-8). This program is for adults and kids age 14+, and is limited to 5 participants. The cost is \$100 and for this one you need to know how to swim.

More information can be found at www.jlac.org. What a great way to enjoy your waterfront.

LIST OF GROUPS THAT CLEANED THE LAKE: 2001 – 2004: A hearty thanks to the following groups that have volunteered and kept Lake Merritt Clean. Note, this does not include the many individual volunteers who gave, and continue to give of their time.



St. Paul's School 6th grade; Lighthouse Charter School; EBCC-Project YES; Foot Action Managers; MacTec; Redwood Day School; Jack & Jill; National Charity League; I Have A Dream; Campfire Girls; Holy Names College; Diamond Park Recreation Center; Lincoln Elementary; Street Academy; Family Support Services; West High School; Jewish Community Services; Kaiser School; Temple Sinai; Kehilla School; Lake Merritt Rowing Club; Oakland High Environmental Academy; Community Integrated Work Program; Inspire Youth Mentors; Laney College; Resurrection Lutheran Church; EBCC Charter School; Boys Club; Thornhill School; Brete Harte Middle School; Hillcrest School; Special Education Students; California State Hayward; Alpha Omega Psi; Cosmos Club; St. Paul's Summer School.

INSTITUTE – BREAKFAST CLUB – GONDOLA GALA: Mark your calendars. Tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 8, this event promises to be fun. Members of the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, Institute, family and friends will be invited to a barbeque picnic in the park with food, drinks and gondola rides. There will be maypoles, games and a special showing of “Synthetic Sea”. Tickets are expected to be \$20, sold only in advance (details in the April newsletter).



Join us for a ride on Lake Merritt’s authentic Venetian gondolas

DD UPDATE: The March meeting of the Citizen’s Coalition will be held on Monday the 8th at the Redwood Heights Recreation Center, 3883 Aliso Avenue. To receive minutes of the February meeting by Email, contact us at lmi@netwiz.net.

EVALUATION FORMS SUMMARIZED: Kudos to the 17 members who responded to our questionnaire. And now, the results:

1. Sixteen respondents said the Lake is cleaner now than in previous years.
2. Areas needing more frequent clean up: None = 6; No answer = 4; The dam = 3; East 18th = 2; The colonnade = 1; 12th Street to Jackson = 1; End of Glen Echo arm = 1.
3. Fourteen respondents were aware of our “U-Clean-It” boxes. Note: lock combination=1314.
4. In order of highest to lowest, the following were ranked as useful in keeping the Lake free of trash (note: lowest score wins).
 - Storm drain filters – 28.
 - More litter containers on streets – 45.
 - Increased trash removal – 53
 - Educational campaigns to stop littering – 56

- Strict enforcement of litter laws – 61.

Note that more storm drain filters won by a landslide. And no wonder; they have no moving parts, work 24/7, can be cleaned in about 45 minutes or less and catch all trash as well as larger sediment particles and some of the hydrocarbons.

5. All but one responded that the aeration fountains should continue to operate. Thirteen people referred to their positive aesthetic value.
6. Fifteen supported the installation of a new, City owned fountain to replace the old Glen Echo fountain using DD funds. One was not sure; one did not respond. Note: In February, the Oakland Water Quality Committee agreed to use DD funds for a new fountain here providing there is adequate electrical service available. However, they did not agree to fund the lights.
7. Thirteen folks were aware that 4,650 acres drain into the Lake via 60 storm drain outfalls. You 'all get an A! For those that don't know, how will you solve the urban runoff problem?
8. No one was a member of a group that needed an educational presentation.
9. And the winners of the contest for improving Lake Merritt are:
 - Dredging – 64 stars.
 - Goose management plan – 62 stars.
 - Urban fishing program – 33 stars.



An Oakland High Environmental Academy Class learns about Lake Merritt.

This group meets weekly at the old, main classroom, and uses the tour boat to help sample life in the Lake.

Presentations such as these would be much more effective with a power point projector

NEED A TAX DEDUCTION? - WE NEED A POWER POINT PROJECTOR: The Institute is searching for someone to donate a power point projector for our educational presentations. The current method of displaying information (handing out photographs and holding up poster boards) leaves much to be desired in terms of communicating ideas. With power point, we could better combine images and words to fight urban runoff. The Institute is a 501-C-3, non profit corporation, and such donations would be tax deductible. Contact Dr. Bailey at 238-2290 if you can help.