

The Lake Merritt Institute

LAKE TRASH REMOVAL, FOUNTAINS, EDUCATION, LAKE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE

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INSTITUTE RECEIVES AWARD FROM LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: A Civic Contribution award for 2004 was given to the Lake Merritt Institute for the Clean Lake Program. The Oakland Office of the League presented the award at their annual All-City luncheon program on April 21st, along with an award to the City Public Ethics Commission. This year's theme was "Keeping Oakland Clean."



In addition to a beautiful, framed drawing of the Lake, the award included a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

Institute Director and Lakekeeper Dr. Bailey accepted the award on behalf of all the volunteers and members and city staff who have contributed to the program.

SUSAN PORTER WINS EPA AWARD FOR CLEAN LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICE: For years, Susan Porter has instilled environmentalism in 6th graders at Oakland's St. Paul's Episcopal School. Students learn about Lake Merritt ecology, how pollution happens, and how to prevent it. They don waders to clean up trash in Lake Merritt and neighborhood gutters – collecting nearly 3 tons of garbage annually. In 2003, students tested water quality, learned hydrology by visiting the upper watershed, and rescued freshwater turtles mistakenly released in Lake Merritt's brackish water. Students interviewed lake visitors and businesses, asking if they know the difference between storm drains and sanitary sewers and explained them. A former student said, "Its fun to pick up all that trash! She's really enthusiastic about it! She likes to get her hands dirty." Susan Porter has created environmental stewards for life and taught them that they can make a difference in their world (from the EPA award summary). The award included a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Barbara Lee and a letter from Senator Diane Feinstein.

The honor was one of several individual awards presented by EPA in region IX (California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands). Shown here (left to right) are EPA deputy regional administrator Laura Yoshii, St. Paul's teacher Susan Porter and EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri.

In conjunction with the Lake Merritt Institute, Susan's 6th grade class cleans the Lake every Thursday during the school year. Thanks Susan!



DOCK PROJECT WAITING FOR CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL: Its been years since the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club began a project to fix the eyesore dock across from the new Essex highrise. Work actually got underway once, but the City made them stop to avoid violating a state law. The Club then negotiated an agreement for the City to continue the work using the same contractor and transferred about \$40,000 that they had collected. Now, all the pieces are in place, awaiting only approval from the City Attorney's office. In the meantime, someone built a whole new highrise building there! Its time for the delays to end, and for a new, boat compatible, pedestrian friendly dock to grace the shores of Lake Merritt.



LAKE CLEAN-UP IMMORTALIZED IN MURAL: Artist Peter Lee was at it again. This time he was painting the whole side of a building in the parking area by Albertson's on Lakeshore. The subject: Lake Merritt's shoreline from Embarcadero to outlet. When he was done, there were the Lake cleaners, including one in the water with hip boots. Behind was the Institute truck (which Peter also painted).

FIVE STORM DRAIN FILTER SITES PROPOSED:

City Inspector William Madison photographs a potential filter site above the Glen Echo Creek storm drain below Interstate highway 580.

Sites for five new filters have been recommended for further evaluation. If installed, they would significantly reduce the amount of trash that flows into Lake during rainstorms.

The sites were chosen from a list of twelve places where filters could possibly be installed.

The filters can be funded by Measure DD, and would also protect downstream portions of creeks.



The Lake Merritt Institute is sponsored and supported by the Oakland Public Works Agency and members like you.