

The Lake Merritt Institute

LAKE TRASH REMOVAL, FOUNTAINS, EDUCATION, LAKE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE

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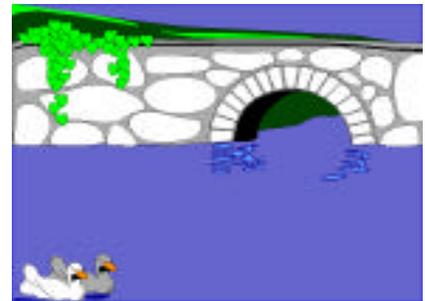
"TIDINGS" - SEPTEMBER, 2004

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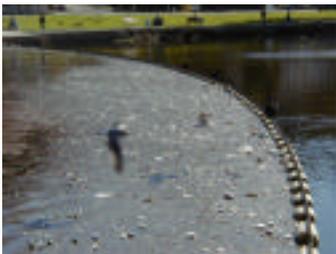
HONORING LAKE MERRITT'S BIRDS: An outdoor art exhibit (at 10:30 am) and an original dance performance with music (at 1 pm) will be held at the Rotary Nature Center in Lakeside Park on Saturday, September 18th. Art activities will feature hand painting and construction by artist Annie Hallatt. There will be 11 large, cut out birds with English, Chinese and Spanish text regarding bird natural history. A sound score from interviews with people at Lake Merritt will accompany the event.

Dancer/Performer Patricia Bulitt will be joined by vocal artists David Worm and Sunshine Becker. Original lyrics drawn from lore of the Lake's birds will be interwoven with improvisation by the three collaborating artists. Ms. Bulitt will dance on a platform floating on the Lake as the singers perform a cappella from the shore. All this for free. Folks are encouraged to bring a picnic and invite friends.

CREEK TO BAY DAY: The art and dance events coincide with National Coastal Clean-Up Day (our version is Creek to Bay Day) when hundreds of dedicated volunteers will be removing trash from beaches, creeks and Lake Merritt. Why not make a day of it, cleaning our environment in the morning and enjoying the art and dance after lunch. Soft drinks and pizza will be available just after noon at the Boating Center to those who have cleaned.



To volunteer, just wear old clothes and be ready to go at 9 am by the courtyard of the Boating Center, 568 Bellevue Avenue in Lakeside Park. T-shirts will be available (first come, first served). This event is sponsored city wide by the Oakland, Public Works Agency – Environmental Services Division.



Most trash is plastic: Remember, plastic marine debris affects at least 267 species worldwide, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all sea bird species and 43% of marine mammal species, primarily through ingestion, starvation, suffocation and entanglement (Coast4U Quarterly). Since eighty – eighty five percent of the plastic in the ocean comes from land based sources, primarily urban run-off, its up to us to stop it at Lake Merritt before it reaches the sea.

LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE PROGRAMS: Trash removal from the Lake, education about urban runoff, maintenance of the aeration fountains and providing information and expertise about Lake Merritt: These are the four programs of the Lake Merritt Institute. Although many people have asked, we do not have authority or responsibility regarding wildlife (including geese) park maintenance or planning issues. Much of our focus in on the biology and water quality of our tidal lagoon, but we do not have a formal program of water quality monitoring. Much of our time is spent working with volunteers, including school groups.



Summer has ended but boating continues: September is a great time to rent a boat and enjoy Lake Merritt. The weather is great, the water clear and the rentals inexpensive.

In fact, The Bay Guardian newspaper, in their August 28th edition, rated the Lake Merritt Boating Center as “Best Place for a Sailing Trip on a budget.”

NINTH ANNUAL WATERSHED ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY FESTIVAL: What – hundreds of people and dozens of environmental groups; When - Saturday, October 2nd from noon to 5 pm; Where – Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Berkeley (one block west of the downtown Berkeley Bart Station); - Why – To inform, educate and enlighten. Including: A creek walk over the future route of a “day-lighted” Strawberry Creek; Free admission; Interactive Activities; Program updates. Sounds like fun. For more details, call the Festival Director at 510-526-9105.

CHANNEL PUMP STATION ALTERNATIVES: What are the cost estimates, flood control changes, recreational features and environment – navigation – aesthetic aspects of this Measure DD project. This information is still in draft form, but watch for it next month.

MEASURE DD: 12TH Street Project: An update on plans for the reconfiguration of the South end of the Lake will be presented at 8 am on Wednesday, September 15th at the Port of Oakland Exhibit Room, 530 Water Street. This event is sponsored by the Waterfront Action Coalition – contact sandy@waterfrontaction.org for more information. The Public Art Project will also be discussed.

Measure DD - Municipal Boathouse (1520 Lakeside Drive): The building is now vacant (Parks & Recreation offices have moved downtown). Building and paint samples have been tested for lead and asbestos. Consultants Wallace, Roberts & Todd with Murakami/Nelson have begun analyzing the structural, electrical and mechanical parts of the structure and a public meeting was held on August 12th. Still proposed is a restaurant and space for Gondola Servizio and the Rowing Club. Supporting the historic renovation aspect will be members of the Piedmont Montclair Rotary Club.

LAKEKEEPER TO SPEAK: Dr. Richard Bailey, executive director of the Lake Merritt Institute, will speak at to Friends of the Lake View Library on Monday, September 20th at 7 pm. This is also the date of the **MEASURE DD CITIZENS’S COALITION MEETING** – contact oaklandparks@sbcglobal.net for more information. Lots of meetings in September.

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