

The Lake Merritt Institute

A COMMUNITY BASED, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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ONCE UPON A TIME, HAPPILY EVER AFTER COMES TO LAKE MERRITT:

Once Upon A Time, Happily Ever After... is supported by the Oakland City Council and funded by the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program and the Oakland Open Proposals Program.

This unique art project will be seen at Lake Merritt this fall, consisting of several parts.

1. First off will be the Self-guided Audio Walking Tour, which will begin on August 7th. A visitor booth will be open Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 AM–4 PM and will be located inside the Lake Merritt Rotary Nature Center.
2. On September 15, Lake Merritt Souvenirs will be available for sale at the visitor booth. Items include: A screen printed map of Lake Merritt and environs drawn by Veronica Graham, a picture postcard series featuring photographs by Rachel Heath, t-shirts featuring drawings and typography by 6th graders from St. Paul's Episcopal School, and a CD compilation featuring recordings by local musicians appearing on the audio tour.



A hand colored postcard, circa 1920, as shown on the project website.

3. During the fall and winter of 2010, Watershed Awareness Signs will be installed. These will be a series of temporary storm drain markers and interpretive maps that will be installed along the shores of Lake Merritt.

A project reception will be held on Saturday, October 9, from 6–9 PM at the Branch Gallery, 455 17th Street, Suite 301, Oakland, CA 94612. For more details, go to www.onceuponatime-happilyeverafter.com. All activities will be free to the public.

CREEK TO BAY DAY: Mark your calendars - Saturday, September 25th will be Creek to Bay Day in Oakland (Coastal Clean Up Day). Once again the faithful will gather at the Boathouse courtyard and sign up to clean a section of shoreline, clean an aeration fountain or outfall barrier, or help with maintaining our “U-Clean-It” boxes. NOTE however that another group of 500-800 people will be using the parking lot so there will be limited (any?) parking and probably congestion at the Lakeside Park entrance. Walkers, bikers and users of public transportation are therefore highly encouraged.



Assemble at 9 am; rain or shine.



Work until Noon, then relax with friends.

CLIMATE CORNER

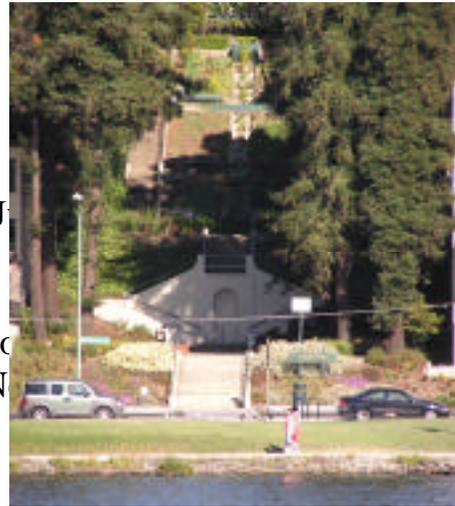
- According to NASA, July 2010 was the 304th consecutive month with a global temperature above the 20th century average. There has not been a below average temperature month since February, 1985! And, so far, 2010 has been the warmest year on record. Despite what some politicians are saying, the earth is warming.
- Recently, a website article (www.prwatch.org/node/9270) provided information that two of the three members of the board of directors for the Alliance for Climate Education (one of the nations largest sources of climate change education for high school students) are or were employees of a BP subsidiary. However, at press time, the site is blocked. Stay tuned.
- Book Review: *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* [Hardcover] by Naomi Oreskes (Author) and Erik M. Conway (Author). A fascinating (and truly frightening) account of how truth has been deliberately cast aside for 40 years by aspersions of doubt to promote profit and prevent government regulation. If you have lost a loved one to smoking or are afraid that efforts to stop climate change are being blocked by unscrupulous means, you should read this book.

NEWS ABOUT DD PROJECTS AT LAKE MERRITT (stolen from the DD Community Coalition meeting minutes):

1. The Lakeshore Drive contractor did not check on the watering regularly, so brown patches have developed where damaged sprinklers have not been repaired. There is now a plan to review scheduling, and to replace dead and missing plants. This is not the case along Lakeside Drive.
2. At the Cleveland Cascade: The handrail lighting has cleared all City of Oakland requirements and the Notice to Proceed will be issued shortly.

The Cleveland Cascade as seen from Lake Merritt

3. Weekend afternoon parking restrictions Lakeshore will be removed and signage three hour parking should be posted by July 28th. This will also apply around remainder of the Lake.
4. The final “temporary road configuration for 12th Street will remain for one year. New storm drains are also being installed.



GONDOLA SERVIZIO OFFICE UPGRADE: Work is proceeding (done?) on the new office for Gondola Servizio adjacent to the Lake Chalet dock. Included will be a new docking facility for the authentic Italian gondolas, and a gift shop where you may obtain masks and other appropriate items for your romantic tour of the Lake. Stop by whenever you can.

BIRD COLUMN (Stolen from Council member Pat Kernighan’s newsletter):



PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has brought to our attention that its office has received multiple reports of Canada geese at Lake Merritt suffering from “angel wing”, a disease characterized by the twisting and drooping of wing joints, according to its Wildlife Biologist Jodi Minion. She writes that angel wing is caused by malnutrition – specifically, diets high in protein and sugar. It is common to waterfowl that are consistently given processed foods. Unable to fly, these geese are vulnerable to predators and

extreme weather conditions. PETA reports that numerous park visitors have been observed routinely feeding these and other animals at the lake. I will be meeting shortly with staff to

explore how to better inform visitors to the lake that feeding wildlife is prohibited for the good of the animals and to eliminate foodstuffs that attract rats and other rodents.



As many as 14 white pelicans have been seen at the Lake this summer. Although our resident flock is only one (a rescue from Oregon who cannot fly) he sometimes has visitors.

RECENT SCENES FROM LAKE MERRITT:



Small fish beware!



The "Please Don't Litter" bench.

This edition of "Tidings" was published entirely with private funding donated to the Lake Merritt Institute. To contribute to the Institute, contact us at 510-238-2290 or 568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.