

Long Beach Day Nursery News

Since 1912 • Published for the friends and staff of Long Beach Day Nursery • Spring 2004

Newton's to Lead Stepping Stones Campaign

Each year the Stepping Stones Scholarship Campaign is lead by community leaders who have a strong connection with the Long Beach Day Nursery (LBDN). This year, LBDN proudly announces the selection of Barbara and Michael Newton as its Honorary Co-chairs for the 2003-2004 campaign. "It's nice to be asked to help raise awareness and funds for LBDN," says Barbara Newton. "Mike and I believe that this world would be a better place if all children could be nurtured in a loving and enriching environment."

The Newtons have had a long relationship with LBDN. Barbara was first introduced to LBDN in 1964 when, as a new member of Rick Rackers Auxiliary of Assistance League of Long Beach, she attended a series of community service organization tours. A few years later Barbara's sister needed child care and Barbara helped enroll her niece and nephew at the West Branch. "The children had a wonderful experience and it gave my sister great support and peace of mind as a single working parent." In 1975, Virginia Eagleson, a long time board member of LBDN, was Barbara's

sponsor onto LBDN's board of directors. An ever-successful recruiter for LBDN, Barbara urged her friend, Director Emeritus Mary Soth, to apply for the Executive Director position when Evelyn Keeley retired in 1978. After serving nine years on the board, including two terms as Treasurer, Barbara was elected to Honorary Board membership.

In 1987 she was asked to chair the 75th Anniversary Committee working with the Board of Directors and Staff to present three major events: An elegant tea at Rancho Los Alamitos to honor the Bixby women who had served on the LBDN Board; a public celebration in the park adjacent to the East Nursery which was attended by over 400 children, family members, and friends; and the publication of the commemorative history booklet, "75 Years in the Day of a Nursery."

Michael Newton is a past president of the Long Beach Association of Life Underwriters who has had a long supportive connection with LBDN. In the mid-1980s, Mike served on LBDN's community advisory board. He is currently on the board of directors for the International City Theatre in Long Beach.

The Stepping Stones program was established in 1992 by LBDN board



member Barbara Gebb. The civil disturbances in Los Angeles and Long Beach demonstrated to Gebb and fellow board members the necessity for quality care and early education for all children, regardless of family income. With the knowledge and dedication the Newtons bring to this campaign, Stepping Stones is sure to be a success. Please welcome Barbara and Michael to the campaign!

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President's Message



Dear Friends:
Spring is my favorite season of the year. There's a freshness and energy in the greenness and longer days that imparts a sense of renewal. In that spirit, we are renewing our efforts to raise vitally needed funds so that

we can continue to provide high quality early education and care to young children in today's challenging economic and political climate.

We gratefully thank Michael and Barbara Newton for serving as Honorary Chairs of this year's Stepping Stones to Success fund raising campaign. On February 15 we kicked off our annual appeal, and have set a fund raising goal of \$185,000. The proceeds are used to subsidize tuition for families who desperately need child care but cannot afford the full cost of tuition. Research has proven that access to quality care programs like Long Beach Day Nursery's result in significant benefits to the community. Some of these benefits include: a decreased need for special

education; higher school achievement and graduation rates, and higher adult earnings. I encourage you to be a part of our mission by filling out the donation form accompanying this newsletter and returning it with a gift for the children and families of our community.

Mark your calendars for our major fund raising event – Tea Time Treasures – which is scheduled for May 22 at the Long Beach Yacht Club. At this elegant daytime affair, we are featuring fashions for women and children along with traditional tea foods and opportunities to win some unique prizes. Honorary Members, Board Members, and grandchildren will be modeling fashions. Dr. Jana Martin, Clinical Psychologist and Consultant to our Early Intervention Program is being honored that day for her many contributions to Long Beach Day Nursery.

Warm regards,

Donita Van Horik
President, Long Beach Day Nursery Board of Directors



Korean Child Care Directors visit the West Branch

On February 23, 2004, ten child care directors from Koreatown located in the city of Los Angeles visited the West Branch to observe its nationally accredited programs, best practices, facility and newly renovated playground. Linda Blackshire, center director of the West Branch, led the tour and answered many questions from the group. Lisa Kim, business counselor of the Korean Youth and Community Center, organized the visit.

Annette Lindquist, Director of Finance



Annette has over 8 years of experience in corporate finance with extensive experience in financial planning, budgeting, management reporting and financial forecasts. At LBDN, she is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day accounting operations and ensuring compliance with various governmental contracts and grants. Since joining LBDN, she has set up and implemented a financial accounting system which will help the Nursery manage costs and achieve greater efficiencies. She

received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from Cornell University.

May Ma, Director of Resource Development and Public Relations



May has over 15 years of experience in both small and large non-profit organizations. With extensive experience in grant writing, program development, fund raising, event planning and public relations, May will provide the nursery with the skills and knowledge needed to maintain and develop new funding resources to maintain the nursery's high quality of care.

She has her Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University and her Masters of Social Work from San Francisco State University.

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Those of us who live in Long Beach are fortunate to have an outstanding public education system. As you may already know, the Long Beach Unified School District recently won the prestigious Broad Award for Best Urban School District in the nation. The School District, through the Long Beach Education Foundation, has also pioneered *Seamless Education*, partnering with the Community College District and CSU Long Beach to ensure a smoothly linked system that coordinates curriculum and teacher training, helping students advance from kindergarten through graduate school. There is no doubt that *Seamless Education* is a tremendous asset to our city.

But until very recently, what has been missing from the discussion of *Seamless Education* has been the vital role of Early Care and Education in ensuring school readiness in our children. In reality, *Seamless Education* should begin much earlier than kindergarten. The overwhelming body of recent research indicates that during the first five years of a child's life, there are certain "critical windows" for the development of basic abilities, such as motor skills, emotional control, overall mental ability, language, math, and social skills. A child who does not receive appropriate exposure or stimulation during these key learning periods may never catch up.

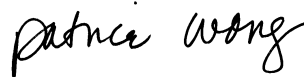
We have been actively advocating for the recognition of the importance of Early Care and Education for many years. Mary Soth, former Executive Director of LBDN and currently Director Emeritus, was a key member of the task

force that authored the community plan for shaping the city's early care and education system, officially adopted by the city in 2003. I joined Mrs. Soth this year on the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee, which is an evolution from the original task force that will focus on implementing the community plan. I also continue my participation in the County's Child Care Planning Committee to further collaborative planning efforts to improve the overall child care infrastructure of the County. Amy Bigelow, LBDN's Program Director, continues to serve as a committee advisor to the First 5 LA Commission on the Master Plan for Universal Preschool. Together, we are working to ensure that our children are best prepared for success in school and in life.

"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation."

C. Everett Koop, M.D.

Sincerely,



Patrice Wong
Executive Director



'Tea Time Treasures' Fundraiser Set For May 22 at LB Yacht Club

Long Beach Day Nursery's "Tea Time Treasures" Fashion Show & Tea Luncheon featuring children, mothers and grandmothers, will be held at Noon on Saturday, May 22 at the Long Beach Yacht Club. This event replaces the Mardi Gras and Dia de los Ninos fundraisers from prior years.

Honored guest for the event is noted clinical psychologist, researcher and lecturer, Jana N. Martin, Ph.D. Dr. Martin is a consultant for LBDN's Early Intervention Program and has received numerous honors for her work with children.

Tickets are \$75 each and several sponsorship levels ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 also are available. Fashions are being donated by local merchants on Second Street in Belmont Shore (Sunshine on 2nd) and the Marketplace Long Beach (Neil's Apparel). A silent auction is planned and an opportunity drawing for cash and gift certificates will be available.

For more information, please contact May Ma at 562.591.0509, Ext. 112. 📞

Long Beach Day Nursery - Gallery of Donors

January 1, 2004 – March 31, 2004 • Thank You to All of Our Supporters!

We apologize for any omissions in our lists. Donations received after the print deadline are gratefully acknowledged and will appear in our next issue. If you feel your name has been left out, please contact us at (562) 591.0509. Thank you!

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KaBOOM! to Renovate Playground at Memorial Branch

Preschoolers from LBDN's Memorial Branch will soon have a new playground. *KaBOOM!*, a national nonprofit located on the east coast whose mission is to build safe and fun community playgrounds, has awarded funds to renovate LBDN's Memorial Branch playground. Thursday, May 13 is the date when over 200 volunteers will converge on the Memorial Branch to make the renovations.

KaBOOM! has partnered LBDN with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and designated a project manager to consult with and oversee the renovations with the Memorial Branch staff.

"We are very excited about being selected by *KaBOOM!* and also to be partnered with AARP," said Patrice Wong, executive director for LBDN. "To have the opportunity to work with AARP is such a wonderful 'one generation to the next' experience, and hopefully the beginning of a long term relationship."

Since 1995, *KaBOOM!* has been motivating communities nationwide to create healthy play opportunities for young people. At the start of 2004, *KaBOOM!* will have created almost 600 new playgrounds and improved more than 1,300 others. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., *KaBOOM!* also has offices in Chicago, Atlanta and Redwood City, CA. For more information, visit www.kaboom.org.



Above: Representatives from AARP, sponsors of the *KaBOOM!* playground project watch the children present their playground ideas.



KaBOOM! playground planning session with Memorial children. Here the children are envisioning their new playground.

"I checked out various day care centers in the area and found they were real expensive. I chose the Memorial Branch because I was able to get a scholarship for my son to attend and his baby sitter works close by, so it was easy for me to leave him early in the morning."

– Tim Tomkins, Parent, Memorial Branch

Gallery of Donors (cont from pg.4)

IN-KIND

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant
Y Cantina
Aquarium of the Pacific
Benefit Cosmetics
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Buono's Pizzeria
Café Lafayette
Katy Collins
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GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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County of Los Angeles, Arts Education Program



Liisa Penrose and John Balzar with their daughter, Gracie.

Parent Profile

When parents Liisa Penrose and John Balzar wanted to find the best place for their daughter Gracie's care and education, their decision was surprisingly easy. "LBDN kept coming up in conversation," said Liisa. "John and I looked around a bit, decided to take a tour of the East Branch and liked the atmosphere and the diversity of the children who attend LBDN."

When asked if she had any concerns about leaving Gracie during the day, Liisa replied, "When I drop Gracie off in the morning, I don't have a worry in the world because I know she is having fun, she is learning and growing." According to Liisa, the (LBDN) teachers do a wonderful job of working hard to constantly stimulate, engage and interact with the children. Liisa Penrose was also appointed to the LBDN board of directors on November 12, 2003.



Healthy Connections Project coordinator Linda Maywood of the Children's Clinic provide hearing tests to West Branch children



"One of the best decisions that I have made for my two children was enrolling them in the LBDN program. Being a parent of twin toddler girls, I really appreciate the care they receive and the skills they develop each day. The Daily Reports that I get from my kids' care-givers really help me visualize what their day was like. The reports are a great communications tool when it seems like you are always in a rush."
– Jackie Vallejo, Parent, West Branch

Our Wish List



Thank you to everyone who have donated items that we have requested, including old Christmas cards, old magazines, drawing paper, videos, toys, children's clothing, towels, and other useful items. We have updated our list and can still use the following:

- "Labels for Education" – save labels or lids with UPC codes from Campbell's, Franco American, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson Broths, Pace Salsa, Prego Pasta Sauces and V8 Juices.
- Garden supplies: seeds, potting soil, gardening tools, watering cans, plastic pots, insect netting.
- "Gently used" children's CDs, cassette tapes, puzzles, toys, balls, ball pump, dolls (male & female), play tool kits, golf tees with peg boards, books, board books, marbles, wicker baskets.
- Art & Craft supplies: leftover party supplies, bubble wrap, letter stencils, office stamps, ink pads, stickers,
- plastic boxes, large scrap paper, assorted fabrics, markers, pens, pencils.
- Small appliances and electronics in working order for classroom activities: electric wok, portable CD player, cameras (digital), color printer
- Old telephones and cell phones for play activities (do not need to be in working order)
- Miscellaneous garage items: Paint brushes, water hoses, flashlights, cooler/ice chest on wheels, small tent, wagon, vinyl floor mats, spring loaded curtain rod.
- Kitchen items: Serving trays, pie pans, small pots and pans, pitchers, ladles, sponges, plastic kitchen cooking & serving utensils, oven mitts, plastic containers, brooms and dustpans, adult-sized aprons
- From the linen closet: big floor pillows, baby blankets
- Clothes and accessories of all sizes for dress up and dramatic play: shoes, shoe laces, hats, uniforms (firefighter, construction worker, fast food, etc.), wigs, laundry baskets, restaurant menus, vinyl place mats
- Aquarium care products, pet cages

For more information or to make a donation, please contact the Center Directors at any of our Branches. Thank you!

Memorial Branch Names New Center Director Martha Garcia-Houghton

Effective March 2004, Martha Garcia-Houghton was named the new Center Director for Memorial Branch. Martha first joined LBDN as a preschool teacher at West Branch in July 2001. With the encouragement from her fellow teachers, she applied for and was selected as the Associate Center Director for the East Branch in October 2002.

"I began my career working in early childhood education with special needs infants and toddlers," said Martha. "I have a heart for this kind of work and appreciate the support that the LBDN administration and board provide its teachers, and the positive work environment here."

When asked what some of her goals are for the Memorial Branch, Martha is excited and focused on the upcoming playground renovation with AARP on May 13. After this, she hopes to build upon the infant program. "We are making changes that the parents will love," said Martha. "I really enjoy the team at Memorial. They are really supportive and I appreciate that so many of them work so hard to be model teachers." Welcome, Martha! 📷



Above:
Dr. Jana Martin
Right:
Judi Fouquette



LBDN Staff In-Service

As a part of our ongoing commitment to teacher training and staff development, LBDN held its tri-annual staff in-service on March 5, 2004.

Guest speakers included: Dr. Jana Martin who spoke on the topic of "Children with Challenging Behaviors;" Susan Leach, ECE Consultant, spoke on "Nurturing Yourself So You can Nurture Others;" Judi Fouquette from the WestEd Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers provided training on the "Infant and Toddler Environment Rating Scale; and Charline Lang, a Long Beach City College Faculty Liaison, provided training on the "Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale." In the late afternoon, each of the branches met in smaller groups so staff and teachers could share resources and exchange ideas on lesson plans and activities.

A special thank to our all in-service day donors: HealthNet, How You Brewin' Gourmet Coffee House, Long Beach Transit and Noah's Bagels. 📷

Check Us Out Online! www.lbdn.org

LBDN is proud to announce the official launch of its web site - www.lbdn.org. Our web site was designed to provide a quick overview of the services offered at all three branches, including early childhood educational information, upcoming events, family resources, children activities and even a way to support LBDN...right online!

Take a moment and log on. We'd love to hear your thoughts and how we might make our web site even better.



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Long Beach, CA 90813
www.lbdn.org

Address Correction Requested



SAVE THE DATE!

Golf Tournament @
Palos Verdes Country Club

For more information,
call Gregory Haeseler at
(562) 491-1548

August 2, 2004

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Judy Gumbiner		

Affiliations listed for information only

West Branch/Administrative Offices

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Long Beach, CA 90813
562.591.0509

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Memorial Branch

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Long Beach Day Nursery News

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Horik, May Ma, Barbara Newton, Patrice Wong

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Now Enrolling at West Branch –
Call 562.591.0509. Bring this newsletter
to your admission interview to waive the
\$50 initial registration fee.

Long Beach Day Nursery is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Early Child Educator by both
policy and practice, and is in accordance with Federal labor laws that forbid discrimination.

