

Long Beach Day Nursery News

www.lbdn.org

Since 1912 • Published for the friends and staff of Long Beach Day Nursery • Spring 2005

Deukmejians Lead Stepping Stones

Long Beach Day Nursery (LBDN) proudly announces that Gloria and George Deukmejian will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for the 2005-06 Stepping Stones Scholarship Campaign. Each year, Stepping Stones is led by a person or couple who has a strong connection with LBDN and a commitment to equitable access to quality education.

Gloria was asked over nine years ago to get involved with LBDN by her good friend Mary Alice Braly, and the rest is history! While Gloria is no longer on the Board of Directors, she has stayed very active with the organization, including being one of the chairpersons for the very successful 'Tea Time Treasures' fashion show and tea fundraiser in May. "It is important for children to start out in an environment like the Nursery," says Gloria. "And we hope to raise enough money to help those families who cannot afford preschool." George lends a hand wherever he can, too, and was instrumental in securing the \$110,000 Governor's Residence Foundation grant for LBDN.

The Stepping Stones program was established in 1992 by LBDN board member Barbara Gebb. The civil

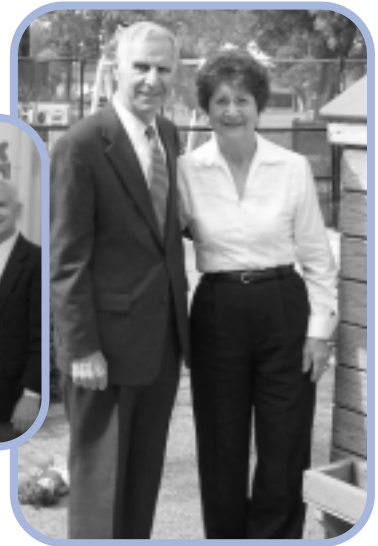
disturbances in Los Angeles and Long Beach demonstrated to Gebb and fellow board members the necessity for quality care and early education for all children regardless of family income.

Each year, approximately 40 children receive financial assistance through Stepping Stones. The average scholarship is \$100/week, but can range from \$25 to \$200. The families who benefit from Stepping Stones are hard working and struggling to balance the demands of entry to mid-level jobs with family needs, including the care and education of their children.

Earlier this year, in recognition of the unique needs of our West Branch, the California Community Foundation (CCF) awarded \$100,000 to LBDN specifically for Stepping Stones Scholarships for children wishing to attend the West Branch. The West Branch had plenty of room to accommodate



The West Branch children thank the California Community Foundation (CCF) for the \$100,000 grant for Stepping Stones to Success. Pictured (L-R) Joe Lumarda, CCF Exec. VP; Jean Bixby Smith, CCF Board; Patrice Wong; Antonia Hernandez, CCF President; James Worsham, Greater LB Foundation.



Former Governor George Deukmejian and wife Gloria.

more children, but also had a long list of children waiting for financial assistance.

The goal was to increase the West Branch's capacity to serve its community. In just six short months, the West Branch has increased its capacity utilization from 71% to 82%.

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Chair and Executive Director's Message

"The secret of joy in work is contained in one word—excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it."
– Pearl Buck, *The Joy of Children*, 1964

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
– Aristotle

Dear Friends of Long Beach Day Nursery:

We have been reflecting on these words regarding excellence and what they mean to us at the Long Beach Day Nursery. For close to a century now, excellence in early childhood education has been our hallmark and the very backbone of our mission—to *provide quality early care and education to young children of working families*.

We were particularly struck by the words of Pearl Buck and how she linked the essence of excellence with joy. Nowhere is that more evident than in the work of our hardworking staff. Across our three centers, over 90 dedicated teachers care for and educate close to 300 children on a daily basis. Teaching young children is a profession one chooses because of one's love for children, because of one's love for teaching, and because of the joy of a job done well. We at the Long Beach Day Nursery are proud of our tradition of excellence—a habit of excellence, to paraphrase Aristotle.

There is evidence everywhere about the joy we take in our work and our habit of excellence. Take a look at the interview with Mary Soth, Director Emeritus of LBDN (page 7). Through the Mary B. Soth Endowment established in honor of her retirement after 22 years with LBDN, teachers are able to increase their knowledge and skills in the early care and education field. Each year, more than one-third of our teachers participate in our professional development program.

The commitment of our long-standing volunteers, board members, and donors is yet more evidence of LBDN's habit of excellence. On the front page of this newsletter you will find an interview with The Honorable George Deukmejian, Former Governor of California, and his wife Gloria. Governor and Mrs. Deukmejian have been longtime friends and supporters of LBDN, with Mrs. Deukmejian having served nine years on our board of directors. This year, they are Honorary Co-Chairs of our *Stepping Stones to Success* campaign, working hard to raise much needed funds to support our scholarship program.

And we would be remiss if we didn't mention our honorary board members. Like Mrs. Deukmejian, each

of our "Honoraries", as they are fondly called, has served nine years on our board, and are among the Nursery's most loyal supporters and advocates. Many continue to actively work with us: serving on our Resource Development and Endowment Committees, lending a hand to our annual Tea Time Treasures event, and helping to organize our upcoming Golf Open. Close to 150 years of service to the Long Beach Day Nursery were represented at our 2005 Honorary Luncheon held last February.

We also proudly point to our families as another indicator of the joy in our work and our tradition of excellence. Partnering with the families who entrust us with the care and education of their children is one of our core values. Each of our centers has an active Parent Advisory Council to serve as a forum for surfacing key issues, identifying volunteer opportunities, developing community resources, and otherwise providing critical parent engagement and support. On page 3 you will see what our Parent Advisory Councils are up to.

Finally, we want to acknowledge all our donors and supporters who believe in the work that we do and who give faithfully to LBDN year after year. Without your support, our work would not be possible.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia B. Jones".

Georgia B. Jones
Chair, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrice Wong".

Patrice Wong
Executive Director

New Board, Staff & Teachers

New board member, Pat Sandt.



Pat Sandt – Pat joined LBDN’s board of directors in December 2004 and is honored and excited about serving. As a new board member, Pat hopes to assist where needed and brings a lot of great experience and energy to the LBDN board. Pat is a principal with Marcom Connections, a full service marketing and corporate event planning company in Torrance, CA.



New board member, Julie Taboada.

Julie Taboada – Julie is a retired educator with the Los Angeles Unified School District and was a preschool teacher for 10 years of her 28-year career as a special education teacher. The San Pedro Rotary recognized her as the ‘Teacher of the Year’ for 2002. Julie is a Long Beach resident and has many well-established ties to the community.

East Center Director, Robin Buchanan.



Robin Buchanan – A native of Long Beach, Robin took over as the East Branch Center Director in October 2004. Robin has over 20 years in teaching and spent the last five years at the Jewish Community Center’s childcare facility. Welcome Robin to East Branch!



Memorial Receptionist, Debbie Mitri.

Debbie Mitri – Debbie is the new receptionist at the Memorial Branch, but not new to LBDN. She was a preschool teacher at Memorial for the past 3 years and prior to coming to LBDN, she worked as a bank teller for 7 years.

Welcome New Teachers! Rhondora England and Irma Ochoa. 📞

Parent Advisory Councils Flex their Fundraising Muscle

Memorial and West Branches’ parent advisory councils both recently organized fundraisers for their respective branches. This year, the Memorial parents raised funds through their children’s art sales and were able to purchase a 20” flat screen TV/DVD to share among the classrooms. The West parents held a See’s Easter Candy sale and will be purchasing children’s equipment for indoor and outdoor use. The East parent advisory council is currently in the process of planning their fundraiser.

On behalf of all the teachers and staff, a special thank you to all our parents who rolled up their sleeves and worked so hard to raise much needed funds for the benefit of all the children. 📞

Continued from page 1

Stepping Stones is a very powerful tool to ensure equitable access to quality care and education. We can only accomplish this through the generosity of individual donors like the Deukmejian and through foundations like the Governor’s Residence Foundation and the California Community Foundation. Other key community partners have included the Earl B. & Loraine Miller Foundation for close to \$500,000 given over the past 10 years; the Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation for major support over the years; and the many individual supporters of the program. Won’t you consider a gift to Stepping Stones today? 📞

In Memoriam

When his mom asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said “I want to be a bear.” His sister said, “You can’t be a bear,” and he responded, “I can be anything when I grow up.”

Christopher was enrolled at LBDN’s East Branch on May 15, 2001.



In Loving Memory of Christopher Ofoegbu. December 3, 2000 – September 22, 2004

Long Beach Day Nursery - Gallery of Donors

July 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005 • Thank You to All of Our Wonderful Supporters!

Contribution received after print deadline are gratefully acknowledged and will appear in the next issue. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact us at (562) 591.0509. Thank you

FRIENDS OF LBDN

100,000+

California Community Foundation/Nurturing Neighborhoods
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

\$40,000+

The Atlas Family Foundation
The Earl B. & Loraine H. Miller Foundation

\$25,000+

Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation

\$10,000+

John Fielder & Donita Van Horik
Alta M. Fry Foundation/
California Community Foundation
Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation
Kaiser Foundation Hospital-South Bay
The Rudolph J. & Daphne A. Munzer Foundation
J.B. & Emily Van Nuys Charities
Victor & Georganna Willits

\$5,000+

The Boeing Company
Edison International
Employees Community Fund of Boeing California
Will J. Reid Foundation
Rotary Club of Long Beach

\$2,500+

Bixby Land Company
Farmers & Merchants Bank
Wal-Mart/Long Beach

\$1,000+

Barbara Bixby Blackwell
Scott & Rebecca Choppin
Equinox
Museum of Latin American Art
Michael & Barbara Newton
Nelle Richards
Union Bank of California

\$500+

Carl Allen
Helen Apostle
Joan Deragon
Minnie Douglas
El Dorado Woman's Club
Gregory & Martha Haeseler
Al & Judi Mellow
David & Linda Silver
Preston & Nancy Smith
Elizabeth 'Bobsy' Thompson

\$100+

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Willa C. Case
George & Daphne Jackson
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Marjorie D. Countryman
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Patricia Weber
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Linda L. Wheeler-Day
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Mary Wilkinson
Dorothy M. Wotring
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In Honor Of and
In Memory Of

IN HONOR OF

Liam Christopher Bixby

Carolyn Bixby

Marilyn Brock

Leonard & Noreen Brock

Patrick Callihan

Ernie & Judy Maltese Ross

Steve Canut

Louis & Cecilia Canut

Luba Casiello

Tammy Stein & Jan Tipton

The Christmas Season

Tom & Lynn Hermstad

Kathleen Costello-Pitts

Mary Prosser

Marjorie Davis

Marjorie D. Countryman

Gloria Deukmejian

Paul Deats

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dockson

Wesley & Betty Rollo

Our Grandchildren

Tom & Jean Stewart

Gregory Haeseler

Robin Hargrove

Bea Hart

Ann Exley



Raising A Reader

Last Fall, LBDN’s East Branch participated in a new early literacy program sponsored by the Long Beach Public Library Foundation. The 12-week program “Raising a Reader” is an award winning early literacy program that provides bright red book bags filled with high quality children’s books featuring artwork, age-appropriate language and multicultural themes. LBDN students met once a week with the librarian at Ruth Bach Library next to the East Branch to read stories and do crafts that encourage reading and the love of reading. The red book bags went home each week and families were encouraged to read all the books. Each week, new books and reading materials were sent home.

At the end of the 12-week session, there was a wonderful graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the children. According to Center Director Robin Buchanan, “Raising a Reader is a great way for children and their families to get excited about reading. We are in the midst of our second 12-week session and have another graduation ceremony planned on May 27th.”

Families with young children who wish to participate in “Raising a Reader” on their own may also sign up directly with the Long Beach Public Library. Visit your local library branch and ask the librarian to put your family on the waiting list.



Above: The children listen as the librarian reads a new story. Left: LBDN students display their certificates after graduating from the program.



“The family really enjoyed your reading program. We hope to continue the practice for years to come. Thank you!”
–Kirkland Family

“Thank you for this program. My child really enjoyed it. I hope there are more programs when she starts Big Kindergarten next year. Thank you!”
–Payan Family

Our Wish List

Cleaning out your garage, closet and cupboards? We can use the following items:

Art & Craft Supplies:

- Markers, pens, pencils and paint brushes
- Stencils, stickers, and envelopes
- Ink pads and office stamps
- Paper, post-its, and sticky labels
- Bubble wrap
- Plastic containers
- Hole punches and staplers

Outdoor and Garden Supplies:

- Small plastic chairs
- Plastic pots and potting soil
- Small plants and planting seeds
- Gardening gloves
- Metal rakes and water hoses
- Hand tools and wood

- Sports balls
- Wind chimes

Science Instructional Supplies:

- Food scales
- Measuring tapes, cups and spoons
- Interesting seashells, rocks
- Books on nature
- Flashlights
- Oven mitts, pitchers, ladles and sponges

Music and Dramatic Play Supplies:

- Children’s CDs, DVDs and videos
- Portable CD players
- Multicultural clothing/accessories
- Wigs, hats, shoes, and handbags
- Uniforms

- Restaurant menus and place mats
- Old telephones

Labels for Education

- Save labels with UPC codes from Campbell’s, Franco American, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson Broths, Pace Salsa, Prego Pasta Sauces and V8 juices

Miscellaneous

- Digital camera
- Sheets of all sizes
- Bath towels
- Small carpets or rugs
- Infant clothes

Please drop off items at any of our branches. Thank you!

Those Who Teach...are Life-Long Learners



East Head Teacher, Sandy Salazar, presents at LBDN's in-service in March

LBDN believes strongly in professional development and continuing education for all of its staff. Opportunities for life-long learning are provided throughout the organization, both formally and informally. For our teachers, we accomplish this in several ways:

- LBDN teachers may attend at least 30 hours of training each year, earning a bonus at the end of the year if the hours are completed and they have developed written plans to use their new knowledge in their classrooms.

- Three required in-service staff development days are held annually to provide focused training for all LBDN staff. One of these in-service days is a combined effort with two other nonprofit providers which allows us to pool our resources together to bring in noted child development specialist speakers, such as Lisa Murphy and Dr. Jana Martin.


- Annually, LBDN convenes all head and lead teachers to encourage inter-branch sharing of ideas, resources and opportunities for collaborative classroom strategies.

This year, through funds from the Mary Soth Endowment Fund (article following), LBDN's head and lead teachers were able to attend a day at the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) national

conference. Taking what was learned at the conference, each participating teacher prepared a presentation for all the teachers and staff at LBDN's in-service held in March.

The Mary B. Soth Endowment – was created

at the time of Mary Soth's retirement as Executive Director of LBDN. Long-time LBDN friends' George & Bea Hart gave the initial gift in Mary's honor to be designated for teacher enrichment and development. Other gifts were received in 2001 in honor of Mary's nearly 22 years at LBDN. The endowment received an additional bequest in 2002 from the estate of Edna Sellers, long time trustee of the Freeman E. Fairfield Foundation. Earnings from this endowment are used to fund teacher enrichment and

development, with the goal of helping teachers attain higher levels of professionalism. These funds also provide LBDN with the resources necessary to find creative ways to provide the best possible training. "The staff and I were of one accord," said Mary. "Our goal is to be the best we could be." 



Mary Soth, Director Emeritus.




LBDN teachers listen during a recent workshop.

To Our Gracious Supporters:

As Board Member and Vice Chair of Resource Development, I first want to thank all of you who have been supporting Long Beach Day Nursery with your time and finances. The rich history of this organization could have never happened without such ongoing generous support.

As many of you may know, LBDN is only seven years away from celebrating its 100-year anniversary. How many non-profits or for-profits can make that claim? Our desire at LBDN is to see this organization continue for another 100 years to serve the needs of the Long Beach community by providing the best of care and by preparing children to become stellar students and productive citizens.

How can we as a community of supporters ensure the survival of LBDN and thus ensure the continuation of making a significant difference in many families here in Long Beach? One way is to build our endowment fund. And you can help us build our endowment fund with a planned gift. This means you name LBDN as a beneficiary in your estate plan. Other planned giving examples are to name LBDN as a partial or sole beneficiary to a retirement plan (e.g. IRA, 401K, 403B, etc.), to a Charitable Gift Annuity, a charitable trust, or to a life insurance policy. Tax-wise, these strategies may be a win-win-win for all parties concerned.

If you have any questions regarding planned giving, please call May Ma, Director of Development, at 562-591-0509, and please consult with your financial advisor, tax advisor and/or attorney regarding your specific situation. Thank you again for the way you are truly making a difference in the lives of the next generation. 



Martha, Amy and Greg Haeseler, LBDN Board Member, Resource Development Committee Chair.



Long Beach Day Nursery
 1548 Chestnut Avenue
 Long Beach, CA 90813

www.lbdn.org

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 for the Education of
 Young Children

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SAVE THE DATE!

November 21, 2005

LBDN Golf Open @ Old Ranch
 Country Club, Seal Beach

For details and information,
 please contact Golf Committee

Chair Greg Burnight
 (562) 435-7471,
gburnight@ncnsb.com

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Executive Director	Patrice Wong
Directors Emeritus	Nelle Richards, Mary Soth

West Branch/Administrative Offices

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 Long Beach, CA 90813
 562.591.0509

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 562.421.1488

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 Early Child Educator by both policy and practice, and is in
 accordance with Federal labor laws that forbid discrimination.*

