



# Long Beach Day Nursery News

www.lbdn.org

Since 1912 • Published for the friends and staff of Long Beach Day Nursery • Spring 2006

## Sandy & John Wells to Lead Stepping Stones

Long Beach Day Nursery's role has always been to provide young children with a good start in life, to strengthen the family, and meet critical community needs as well.

This year's Stepping Stones to Success Scholarship Campaign will be led by longtime Long Beach Day Nursery supporters Sandy and John Wells. For more than 20 years, the Wells have worked hard to shepherd funds and support for the Nursery that is dear to their hearts. "LBDN is just a wonderful organization," says Sandy. "John and I are honored to be selected as the honorary chairs for Stepping Stones and hope to grow the campaign to an even bigger level." This year's campaign goal is \$100,000.

Sandy was on the LBDN board of directors in 1992 when Stepping Stones first began, and served for two

years as president. Stepping Stones to Success 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.

Stepping Stones was designed to serve working families who cannot afford LBDN's weekly fees, but who don't qualify for public subsidies. Families qualify for assistance when their income is \$3,900 or less (for a family of three) per month. Foundation donors for Stepping Stones have included the Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation and the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation, as well as the California Community Foundation. Thanks to the support of



Sandy and John Wells

these and many other generous individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations, 40 or more children each year receive scholarships.

If you would like to make a contribution to LBDN's Stepping Stones to Success Scholarship Fund, please contact Executive Director Patrice Wong at 562.591.0509.

## LBDN Teachers Receive Education Stipends from County

"Investing in Early Educators" is a program developed by the Child Care Planning Committee of the County of Los Angeles and funded by the California Department of Education. Cash stipends are awarded to teachers who work directly with children at least 15 hours per week and complete at least three semester units of eligible college level coursework contributing to a degree in child development or closely related field. In the last funding cycle, three LBDN teachers received stipends through this program. Congratulations to Sonya Neal, Vickie Harris and Delia Thomas!

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# Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends:

Each spring, thousands of parents go through that ritual known as "kindergarten registration." I am a part of that group this year as my daughter Sara will be entering kindergarten this September. As a result, I have been reflecting a little more than usual on school readiness.

There has been much debate in recent months about kindergarten preparation. With the increased testing and monitoring of academic achievement at earlier and earlier grade levels, what children learn in kindergarten is significantly different from what kindergarteners of the last generation were exposed to. This downward academic pressure alarms us. **Play** is the basis of social and emotional competence that best prepares our children to be lifelong learners. **And while we agree strongly that it is important for our children to be academically prepared for school, we must also be aware that inappropriate demands and pressures discourage children.**

To help and inform parents, the Long Beach Unified School District and the Long Beach Early Care and

Education Committee have worked together to publish "Getting Ready for Kindergarten." Copies of this useful – and timely – guide will soon be available at both of our centers. LBDN has long practiced what is detailed in this guide. Our curriculum supports the interests of each child, helping them to grow cognitively, socially and emotionally through developmentally appropriate activities so that they are ready for school and eager to learn.

Long Beach Day Nursery remains committed to providing our children the highest quality care and education possible. Children entering kindergarten will be equipped with the skills that they need for success not only in school but in life.



Sincerely,

**Patrice Wong**  
Executive Director

## Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of Long Beach Day Nursery:

*The baby arrives and everyone is so happy and excited. Mom and Dad have some decisions to make soon because Mom needs to return to work. This is the time to think of the Long Beach Day Nursery (LBDN). Three words come to mind: Quality, Longevity, and Not-for-Profit.*

- **Quality:** The quality of our programs is unique and unsurpassed because of our national accreditation and our commitment to best practices, such as continuity of care. Our youngsters receive an early childhood education, not babysitting. And, with our low teacher-to-child ratio, a nurturing, loving and child-friendly environment is always provided. Our early intervention and literacy programs are well known in the community, there is structure and consistency to our programs based on best practices, and our teachers are involved in ongoing training.

- **Longevity:** LBDN has a rich, ninety-four year history. As we approach our century celebration, the variety of programs and services offered are constantly changing with the needs of our families and the surrounding community.

But our mission remains as relevant today as it was in 1912: to provide quality early care and education for young children of working parents.

- **Not-for-Profit:** Long Beach Day Nursery is a mission driven, not-for-profit agency and remains committed to providing affordable, high quality early care and education for children and their working parents of all income levels.

*As prospective parents tour our facilities they begin to feel secure with the environment they have chosen and are able to return to work with peace of mind.*

As you hear about those new bundles of joy arriving, please share Long Beach Day Nursery with these parents!




Sincerely,

**Georgia B. Jones, Ed.D.**  
Chair, Board of Directors

# Parents as Partners

One of the cornerstones of LBDN's philosophy is parent engagement. Through ongoing workshops on child development, health, parenting techniques and education, as well as family events like the Annual Family Picnic, Sunshine Day Open House, and Fall Feast, parents are offered numerous opportunities for participation in their child's care and education.

Both West and East Branches have an active Parent Advisory Committee and last February, East introduced Grandparents' Day. According to LBDN Program Director Amy Bigelow, "Parent participation is a critical part of our program and therefore we offer many ways for parents to be involved. Some parents participate by attending our Parent Advisory Committee meetings or our parent education meetings, while others participate by attending our Sunshine Day Open House or other special events."

A majority of LBDN parents participate by attending parent-teacher conferences which are held twice a year. Being involved early on in a child's education lays the foundation for involvement throughout their lives. 



Second from right: Silvia Romero and family members join her daughter, Aaliyah Diaz from the West Branch.




Spencer Spaulding with grandparents.

# Golf Open Raises Over \$16K

The Second Annual Long Beach Day Nursery Golf Open held on November 21 at Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach saw close to 100 golfers enjoy a perfect day and raise over \$16,000.

Honorary Board Members Kathleen Costello-Pitts and Suzanne Nosworthy joined current Board Members Barbara Blackwell and Jan Faris in welcoming and registering the golfers. A hearty breakfast buffet started the day and Event Chair and LBDN Board Member Greg Burnight officially announced the start of play with his usual dry wit and style. Board Members Julie Taboada and Melanie Werts oversaw the action at the raffle and silent auction tables.

The 19th hole reception following the tournament was sponsored by Wal-Mart Towne Center. Other major sponsors included BP Amoco, Inc., Farmers and Merchants Bank/Belmont Shore, Farmers and Merchants Trust Company of Long Beach, Merrill Lynch, and Southern California Edison.

Board members and friends in attendance included Donita Van Horik and husband John Fielder, newly appointed President of SCE, Henry Taboada, Georgia Jones and husband Bernie, Jean Bixby Smith, Sandy and John Wells, Marta and Rob Griffin, Mike Newton, Greg Burnight, Greg Haeseler, Sheri and Dr. Selden Beebe, Warren Iliff, Steve Chesser, Jonathan Gotz and Dan Walker. 

**SAVE THE DATE: The Third Annual LBDN Golf Open will be held August 28, 2006 at Old Ranch.**

# First Book a "First" at West Branch

West Branch recently received over 500 books from First Book, the national nonprofit organization that gives children from low income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. At least three books were given to each child to take home, while the balance was used to supplement the classroom libraries.

"This is the first time we have experienced the First Book program and we are very happy to be able to give our children new books," says Center Director Linda Blackshire. "We hope LBDN will continue to participate in the program." Some of the books offered featured *Dora the Explorer*, *Blues Clues* and *Bob the Builder*.

First Book has distributed more than 40 million new books to children in need in hundreds of communities nationwide. To learn more about First Book, please visit [www.FirstBook.org](http://www.FirstBook.org). 



L to R: Michael Brown, Mike Newton, Jonathan Gotz and Patrick Brown.



Golfers get ready for a great day of fun and comroderie.

# Long Beach Day Nursery - Gallery of Donors

Thank You to All of Our Wonderful Supporters!

Reflects gifts received July 1, 2005 to March 13, 2006. Contributions received after print deadline are gratefully acknowledged and will appear in the next issue of the Long Beach Day Nursery News. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact us at (562) 591-0509. Make your donation on line! Visit us at [www.lbdn.org](http://www.lbdn.org) and click on "Support LBDN," then on "Donate Now!"

## IN HONOR OF

### The Deukmejians' "Aunt Alice"

Barbara Lopp  
**All the Kids at LBDN**  
Ralph and Robin Buchanan  
**Barbara Alpert**  
Jack and Binnie Berro  
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G.M. Bertucci

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Flo Pickett  
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**Gloria Deukmejian**  
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Wesley and Betty Rollo

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**Donita Van Horik**  
Ben and Tamara McVicker  
**Melanie Werts**  
Dennis and Suzanne Poulsen

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### \$100,000+

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

### \$40,000+

The Atlas Family Foundation

The Earl B. & Loraine H.

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### \$10,000+

Altha Fry Trust

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Robert and Judy Gumbiner  
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# "Tea Time Treasures" to Honor Mayor Beverly O'Neill

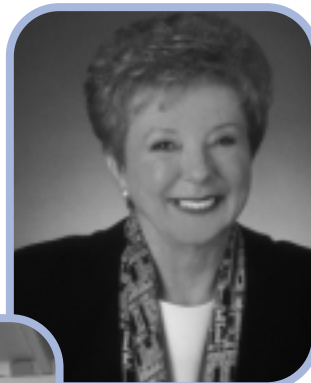
This year's "Tea Time Treasures" fashion show and luncheon will celebrate the accomplishments of the Honorable Beverly O'Neill, Mayor, City of Long Beach, and one of Long Beach Day Nursery's most distinguished alumnae.

According to Event Co-Chair Melanie Werts, this year's goal is to have 300 people attend and raise between \$50,000 and \$55,000. Last year's event raised over \$50,000 for LBDN's general operating support.

The show will feature fashions from Sunshine on 2nd Street and Greater LA Woman, both in Belmont Shore, and Hiatt & Peek in the Marketplace. Hiatt & Peek will feature its new line of vintage-style hats and jewelry.

An opportunity drawing for two outstanding gifts include: First prize – A five-day vacation to Guanajuato, Mexico, and \$800 towards airfare; Second prize – A \$400 gift certificate from McCarty's Jewelers in Belmont Shore. Also featured will be a variety of exciting silent auction items. This year's major sponsor is Southern California Edison. Other sponsors at press time include the Bixby Land Company, Judy Gumbiner, the Evalyn Bauer Foundation, F&M Bank, Wal-Mart Towne Center and the Honorable Don Knabe.

"Tea Time Treasures" will be held May 6, 2006, at the Long Beach Marriot, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive at 11:00 am. For tickets and reservations, please call Carol Hass at 562.591.0509.



Above: The Honorable Beverly O'Neill, who attended LBDN as a young child.



Left: Sandy Wells and her granddaughter model at last year's event.

## Children's Learning Gardens Bloom with Help from New Friends

*"The National Gardening Association (NGA) is proud to support this terrific kids' garden," says Michael Metallo, NGA president. "This program was selected because of a demonstrated commitment to actively and creatively engaging youth in the gardening process and to improving the community."*

Long Beach Day Nursery was recently chosen from among 1,300 applicants across the country to receive one of only 150 first prizes from the National Gardening Association and Home Depot. The award will be used to complete and enhance the children's learning gardens at both our East and West Branches.

LBDN also received a significant grant from the Metropolitan Water District for educational materials, signage and supplies related to California native plants and water conservation. California natives will be incorporated into both learning gardens and a water conservation curriculum will be developed and implemented to complement the garden.

Originally designed by the late Patrick Callihan, the children's learning gardens function as outdoor classrooms and learning centers where natural science and related curricula can be seamlessly woven into our program. Children will be actively involved in the selection of plants, planting, and continuing care of the garden.



Above: West Branch Garden. Currently named in honor of Judy Maltese Ross; to be rededicated in memory of Patrick Callihan.




Left: East Branch Garden: The Talmage and Margaret Callihan Memorial Garden.

# LBDN Teams Up for Fourth Annual Staff Development Day

Each year LBDN collaborates with other agencies to coordinate a full day of plenary sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities for our teaching staff. Pooling our efforts in this way allows us to access more training resources, as well as encourage inter-agency brainstorming and shared problem solving.

Last September Young Horizons and Community Improvement League joined LBDN to host "Keys to Classroom Success," the fourth annual combined agency staff development day. Workshop sessions included *Understanding ECERS*, *Desired Results Developmental Profiles*, *Music and You: Sounds of Literacy* and *Taking Care of Me!*

The keynote address by Chief Anthony Batts of the Long Beach Police Department, *I've Got Keys, How Do I Open The Doors?* addressed the critical importance of quality early education and its relationship to success in life. 



Top, L to R: Sarah Soriano of Young Horizons, Farah Khalegi of the Community Improvement League, Chief Anthony Batts, Long Beach Police Department and Patrice Wong, LBDN Executive Director.



Recipients of the Professional Development Stipend during last fall's Staff Development Day.

## Planned Giving: Leaving Your Legacy to LBDN


Long Beach Day Nursery has received bequests from faithful supporters throughout its long history. Each gift has contributed to the ongoing viability of LBDN.

One such planned giving tool is the Charitable Remainder Trust or CRT. Barbara Blackwell, a longtime supporter of LBDN and board member for the past five years, decided in late 2005 to give in this way. Barbara's decision to give was simple: Growing up in the Bixby family, she was well aware of the beliefs and mission of the organization and its history in town. "As a first grade teacher for 34 years, I love little children," remarked Barbara. "To see children get a quality education is wonderful and the Nursery does a great job with this."

With a CRT, the giver receives income based on the donated assets as long as they are alive; an income tax deduction is received in the year the CRT is established; the deduction can be spread out over a five year period; dollars are not lost to capital gains tax; all of the money is tax-free and the charity does not pay tax either; and the entire principle is paid to the charity or charities upon death of the giver.

**Would you like to be a "Building Block" for LBDN's future? Here are the ABC's:**

- A:** Determine if you would like to leave a lasting gift by making a donation to the Long Beach Day Nursery Endowment Fund via a planned gift;
- B:** Name LBDN as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, life insurance policy, retirement account, trust or annuity;
- C:** Join us in our goal to reach 100 planned gifts by our 100th anniversary. We are already one-third of the way there!

Your gift will live on, improving children's lives for years to come. For any questions regarding making a planned gift, please contact LBDN Executive Director Patrice Wong at 562.591.0509. 

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of the following individuals...

Lois Barloon  
Penni-Jo Laking  
Elizabeth "Bobsy" Thompson  
Mary Frances Wilkinson  
Victor and Georganna Willits





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

[www.lbdn.org](http://www.lbdn.org)

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Due to space limitations, our Wish List is not included in this issue of the Long Beach Day Nursery News. Please visit our website at [www.lbdn.org](http://www.lbdn.org) to view our current list, or call either of our branches. Thank you!

## Board of Directors & Officers 2005-06:

<b>Chair</b>	Georgia Jones, Ed.D.
<b>Chair-elect</b>	Barbara Bixby Blackwell
<b>1st Vice Chair</b>	Daphne Ching-Jackson
<b>Personnel</b>	
<b>2nd Vice Chair</b>	Donita Van Horik
<b>Board Development</b>	
<b>3rd Vice Chair</b>	Gregory Haeseler
<b>Resource Development</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Elaine Thompson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carolyn Bixby
<b>Board Members:</b>	
James Bunnell	Pat Sandt
Gregory Burnight	Gail Schwandner
Gayle Clock	Linda Silver
Minnie Douglas, Ed.D.	Julie Taboada
Jan Faris	Melanie Werts
Brian Russell	Meg Westlund, Ph.D.
<b>Executive Director</b>	Patrice Wong
<b>Directors Emeritus</b>	Nelle Richards, Mary Soth

### West Branch/Administrative Offices

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### East Branch

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### Long Beach Day Nursery News

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*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.*

