President’s Message

For more than thirty years, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation have worked to strengthen our diverse Oakland communities through helping kids and restoring our parkland. We are happy to say that, in the last year, significant strides were made to help us in our mission.

At our 2013 Annual Meeting we were proud to announce the Thompson - Bliss Family Gift. The gift from Kim Thompson and former Friends President, John Bliss, is being given in increments of $20,000 over five years. Approximately half of the Gift funds are for youth swim scholarships, while the other half of the funds are dedicated to funding a small grants program for Oakland’s Office of Parks and Recreation’s (OPR) facilities and programs. Our profound thanks go out to Kim and John for choosing Friends as the focus for their Oakland-based philanthropy.

2013 also saw the establishment of the Lewis P. May Fund. The Fund was set up to honor the memory of founding board member, Lewis P. May. Gifts of stock were made to Friends over the years by May and his son (also a former board member), Pete May. The Fund serves as a source for community micro-grants, which help to pay for materials to further the work of our many Community Partners. Our thanks to the May family for providing for the Fund.

As the year drew to a close, we were thrilled to partner with OPR to lay the groundwork for our first collaborative capital project: the renovation of the Curt Flood Sports Complex (formerly Curt Flood Field). Located in the Fruitvale District, the Complex has long served as a home for numerous baseball, softball and football teams. We are excited to undertake a capital campaign to restore this historic sports field, with the hope that this is just the start of campaigns that will enable Friends to restore parks throughout Oakland.

Our thanks go out to three departing Board members: Charles Crowder, whose great enthusiasm for Friends and OPR lit a fire under many of us; Friends Treasurer, Maria Alderete, for championing the establishment of the May Fund, and working tirelessly on many budget related issues; and Howard Nathel. Howard is a tireless advocate for Oakland kids who come from some of the City's most underserved neighborhoods and during his time on the Board, he helped to spearhead and support many initiatives and funds that will continue for years to come. We wish them all good luck and we will miss their leadership and guidance as board members.

Sincerely,

Jen Vedock
President, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation

Mission and History

The Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation was created in the fall of 1981 by a group of Oakland activists who believed that the quality of life for all of Oakland’s citizens included a healthy system of city parks and recreation centers. Their belief was that the City needed a nonprofit partner that could generate funding and support to enhance Oakland’s parks and recreation centers. Friends’ founders knew that Oakland’s recreation centers served as a vital linchpin, providing sports programs, art programs, and other educational opportunities to children and adults in all of Oakland’s neighborhoods. Friends supports OPR’s programs through youth scholarships and recreation center grants. In addition, Friends continues to support and raise funds for many needed park and recreation center related capital improvements.

A Home for Community Partners

For much of its history, Friends has provided a fiscal umbrella to community groups that are dedicated to pursuing mission-aligned goals. Our Community Partners work diligently to provide outdoor sports and educational opportunities to Oakland’s children and help to restore and maintain parks and sports-fields throughout the City. Friends is proud to support these groups, by providing strategic advice, and through the Community micro-grant program.

Donors Like You

The Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation has always relied on the generosity of concerned citizens from all across Oakland through membership pledges and other donations, the annual A Taste of Spring gala, and other events. These funds support Friends’ operating budget and Youth Scholarship Fund, making it possible for the organization to carry out the mission of support for all of Oakland’s parks and recreation centers. The staff and Board of Friends are particularly proud of the Youth Scholarship program. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Oakland youth from low income families are able to take part in the many character building activities that the City’s recreation centers have to offer. Please see our website at oaklandparks.org to become a member and to make a scholarship donation today.
Community Partners

40th St. Median Project
Ace Arts
Alameda County - Oakland Community Action Partnership
Artemis Rowing
Brett Park Fund
Burnham Bench Fund
Community Arts
Dimond Improvement Association
Friends of Cleveland Cascade
Friends of Glen Echo Creek
Friends of Joaquin Miller Park
Friends of Lake Merritt Japanese Garden
Friends of Maxwell Park
Friends of Oak Glen Park
Friends of the Gardens at Lake Merritt
Friends of the Grove - Dimond Park
Garber Park Stewards
Glenview Median Strip
Greening of Oakland / PG&E
I Heart Mama
Jobs and Housing Coalition
Junior Chef Society
Keep Oakland Beautiful
John and Mittie Phillips Scholarship Fund
Lake Merritt Pollinator Posse
Lakeshore Homes Association
Morcom Rose Garden Fund
NEWT (Native Environment Watershed Transformation Project)
Oakland Block Party
Oakland (Northern Hills) Landscape Cmte.
Oakland Civic Orchestra
Oakland Community Orchestra
Oakland Parks Coalition
ODOG (Oakland Dog Owners Group)
Rockridge Phase 2
Shepherd Canyon Homeowners
Splash Pad Neighborhood Forum
Today's Future Sound
Town Park
Wonderarium

MEMORIALS
Kristin Anderson Bench
Deolores M. Duffy Memorial Fund
Shirley Green Memorial Fund
Dr. Sabra Jones Memorial Fund
Betty Price Recreation Center Fund
Simon Richardson Bench
Marcelle Weed Memorial Fund

OAKLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center
Bench and Naming Fund
Bushrod Recreation Center
Carmen Flores Recreation Center
Community Gardening Program
DeFremery Recreation Center Sponsor*A*Child
Digital Arts and Culinary Academy
Dimond Recreation Center
Director of OPR / Anniversary / Events / Intimate Evening / Sundays in the Redwoods
Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate
East Oakland Sports Complex
FM Smith Recreation Center
Franklin Recreation Center
Ira Jinkins Recreation Center
Lake Merritt Boating Center
Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts
Manzanita Recreation Center
Montclair Rec. Center (Bernice Ratto Fund)
Mosswood Recreation Center
Oakland Discovery Center
Redwood Recreation Center
Rotary Rec. Center & Duck Pond Fund
Sheffield Park and Recreation Center
Sheffield Village Preschool
Tassafaronga Recreation Center
Teen Leadership

OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION: SPORTS AND AQUATICS
ACE Kids Golf Program
Adult Sports
Davie Tennis
Girls' Sports
Young American Little League
Oakland Pools
Castlemont Swim Team
City Of Oakland Pools
City Swim Team
Fremont Pool
Gator Sharks (Fremont/Castlemount)
Lion's Swim Team
Live Oaks Swim Team
Temescal Tidal Waves
West Side Swim Team

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Jen Vedock, President
Karen Krolewski, Secretary

Jill Broadhurst
Leah Casey, Immediate Past President
John Coppinger, Past President
Charles Crowder
Emily Gordon
Michael Hammock

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Maria Alderete, Treasurer

Erik Ludwig
Lori McKee
Howard Nathel, Past President
Daniel Swafford
Paul Vidican
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Ken Lupoff, Executive Director
Melinda Morris, Finance Manager
Donor Acknowledgement List

$10,000 and Over
Pacific Gas and Electric Thompson - Bliss Family Gift

$5,000 and $9,999
Coca-Cola Refreshments Kaiser Permanente - East Bay Community Foundation

$1,000 – $4,999
Delta Dental Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP Elizabeth Harris & John Copparing
Ethel Howze Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez McGuire & Hester Foundation Susan Molloy Oakland Police Officers Assn, Oakland Running Festival (Corrigan Sports Ent., Inc)

$500 – $999
Maria Alcindor John Brown & Laranda Marr California Bank and Trust Susan Casentini Leah Casey & Kevin Ingersoll Vicki Collins Sally & Mike Fitzhugh Jane Funk Larry Gremillion Peter Grube Marko Highsmith Linda H. Huber Audree Jones-Taylor Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders

$35 – $249


Carole Levenson Lake Merritt Sailing Club Lakeshore Homes Association Melvin Landry Sung Wook Lee Gaye Lenahan John & Nancy Lenahan Alan Lessick Thomas and Sharon Lippin Tina & Jerry Lowden Marta Lozoya Monica & John Marcone

$250 – $499

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Terry Kulka

$5,000 and $9,999
Coca-Cola Refreshments Kaiser Permanente - East Bay Community Foundation

$1,000 – $4,999
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Terry Kulka
A Taste of Spring

Friends’ tenth annual A Taste of Spring was held on the evening of May 2, 2013 at Oakland’s Lakeside Park Garden Center. Kim Thompson and John Bliss were honored with the Anne Woodell Community Award. Kim and John both spoke passionately about the need for Oakland’s residents to invest their philanthropic dollars in the town they live in. The couple also stressed the critical importance of insuring that all of Oakland’s children are able to take advantage of swim lessons offered by the Office of Parks and Recreation.

The proceeds from A Taste of Spring were used to support Friends’ work in the community, and attendees also generously donated directly to Friends’ Youth Scholarship Fund.

Many thanks to the staff of Oakland’s Office of Parks and Recreation and to our A Taste of Spring chairs, Maria Alderete and Jill Broadhurst.

A Special Thank You to the 2013 A Taste of Spring Sponsors

Kaiser Permanente
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP
McGuire & Hester
Torrey Pines Bank
Oakland Running Festival/Corrigan Sports
Delta Dental
Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons, Greenwood, Harley & Oberman Foundation
Oakland Police Officers’ Association
Safeway Foundation
Shorenstein Realty Services
Ross Recreation Equipment

And Thanks to the 2013 A Taste of Spring In-Kind Providers:

17 Jewel’s Salon & Spa
Bacheeese’s
Bay Area Children’s Theatre
Bay Area Discovery Museum
Beach Blanket Babylon
Bellevue Club
Berkeley Bowl
Berkeley Ironworks
Berkeley Symphony
Buddy Club
California Canoe and Kayak
California Shakespeare Theater
California’s Great America
Chabot Space & Science Center
Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center
Cheese Steak Shop
City of Oakland, Davie Tennis Stadium
Commonwealth Cub of California
Cotton Patch
Crogan’s Restaurant & Bar
Crown Liquors
Cyclesports
Dailley Method
Elements of Being
Farley’s East
Farmstead Cheeses & Wines
Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse
Golden Skate
Gymboree Play & Music
Hearst Castle
Holistic Veterinary Care
Hula Boutique
Italian Colors
Jack Hyde Soccer Camp
Kinetic Arts Center, LLC
La Farine Bakery
La Note
Luka’s Taproom & Lounge
Monkey Business Camp
Montclair Veterinary Hospital
Namaste
New Parkway Theater
Oakland As Community Fund
Oakland Hills Tennis Club
Oakland Ice Center/Sharks Ice
Oakland Zoo
Oaktoberfest
Ozumo - Oakland
Paramount Theatre of the Arts
Pave Fine Jewelry Design
Piedmont Spa
Piedmont Yarn
Polish on Piedmont
Renaissance Rialto Management
Rick & Ann’s
Scott’s Restaurant
The New Parkway Theater
Transport
Treehouse Green Gifts
UC Botanical Garden
Viewpoint
Village Chiropractic & Wellness Center
Village Market
Wax Museum at Fisherman’s Wharf
Western Railway Museum
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
**Income and Assets**

**Income**
Program Fundraising
- Curt Flood Sports Complex: $4,050
- Lewis P. May Fund: $2,500
- Thompson – Bliss Family Gift: $20,000
- Youth Scholarship: $21,050
General Fundraising: $88,402
Program Mgmt Income: $4,124
Fiscal Account Mgmt Income: $33,073
All other Income: $1,341

Total Income: $174,540

**Expenses**
Program Costs
- Curt Flood Sports Complex: $---
- Lewis P. May Fund: $1,500
- Thompson – Bliss Family Gift: $15,798
- Youth Scholarship: $19,532
- General Administration: $120,208
- Development, Marketing and Events: $25,776

Total Expenses: $182,814

Net Income: ($8,274)

**Fiscal Accounts Assets**
Fiscal Account Income: $617,515
Fiscal Account Expenses: $526,575

Change in Fiscal Account Assets: $90,940

Total Change in Assets: $82,666

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**Lewis P. May Fund**

The Lewis P. May Fund was established to honor the memory of Lewis P. May. The Fund serves as a source for community micro-grants, to help to pay for materials needed to further the work of our many Community Partners. Some of the items that May Fund micro-grants helped to pay for included, a Bee Hotel (located in the Gardens by Lake Merritt), new bricks for the Montclair Park Amphitheater, landscape work at Maxwell Park and music classes provided by Today’s Future Sound to kids at deFremery Recreation Center and the East Oakland Sports Complex. Our thanks go to Pete May and his family for providing the assets for the Fund.

To find out how you can donate to the Lewis P. May Fund, or set up your own specialized fund, please visit oaklandparks.org, or call 510.465.1850.
Thompson – Bliss Family Gift

The Thompson – Bliss Family Gift was established by Kim Thompson and former Friends President, John Bliss. Half of the funds from the Gift are set aside youth swim scholarships, while the other half is dedicated to funding a small grants program for OPR facilities and programs. 2013 gift funds enabled 63 kids to enroll in swim lessons at the East Oakland Sports Center in East Oakland, and deFermery Pool in West Oakland.

In 2013, Thompson – Bliss funds were used to award thirteen grants to OPR recreation centers and programs. These grants helped to pay for items such as an automated external defibrillator for the aquatics program, helmets and bicycles for the Bicycle Safety Adventure program offered at Manzanita Recreation Center, gardening equipment for the edible schoolyard program, and much more. Thompson – Bliss funds were also used in conjunction with donations from other foundations to pay for the installation of new basketball courts at deFremery Park in West Oakland.

To find out how you can set up your own specialized fund, please visit oaklandparks.org, or call 510.465.1850.