New Speakers for California Tower Carillon
Meet Former Carousel Owner Bill Steen
Revival of Redwood Circle Begins
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer of Success

The heat of the summer did nothing to slow Friends of Balboa Park. Just when the park starts to experience the height of the tourism season, Friends achieved a number of great milestones.

Our signature success this summer was clearly the effort to replace the carillon speakers in the California Tower (story on page 3). The Tower now boasts a real transformation in sight and sound. No longer do park visitors look upon this extraordinary icon of Balboa Park and see tired old bullhorn speakers, blighting the magnificent Tower arches. And the sound amplified from the carillon is even more crisp and genuine. This project is the ultimate example of our dedication to improving the park and a real commitment – your commitment – to making these a reality.

Soon after we completed that project, we once again hosted National Carousel Day at the Balboa Park Carousel on July 25. We welcomed thousands of people of all ages from all over the region, with free rides, music, food, and performances. This was Friends’ small way of saying thank you to the generations of San Diegans who love the Carousel, and to once again celebrate this cherished symbol of Balboa Park, which Friends acquired in 2017 and for which we are now raising money for restoration (see pages 4-5).

As we go to press, we are in the final stages of preparation for our Annual Awards Luncheon on October 19. This great event is the one opportunity during the year when we invite fellow Balboa Park organizations and the larger community to recognize excellence in volunteerism, promising future leadership, and those who made the park what it is today. I hope you will join us for what should be another wonderful celebration.

Now, as the summer recedes and we approach the end of the year, Friends of Balboa Park will soon be making plans to observe our 20th anniversary in 2019. We will have a number of big announcements coming soon, including a whole slate of new park improvement projects. Stay tuned for what’s to come, and how you can be part of our efforts next year.

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to Ray Waite (elected 2015) and Wilda Wong (elected 2017), who recently stepped away from Friends’ Board of Directors due to personal and professional commitments. Ray served on our Projects Steering Committee, and was instrumental in the early phases of our future gateway monuments project. Wilda brought great strategic ideas and positive energy to Friends’ Board, serving as chair of the Membership Committee.

Thank you, Ray and Wilda, for being part of our success these past few years.

John Bolthouse, Executive Director
New Carillon Speakers Installed in the California Tower

After a nearly year-long effort, Friends of Balboa Park formally dedicated new speakers in Balboa Park’s iconic California Tower that amplify the chimes of the historic carillon. The official first sounds from the new speakers emanated with a medley of music during a public ceremony at Spreckels Organ Pavilion on July 16.

The cathedral-inspired bell tower, part of the San Diego Museum of Man, has never had any actual bells. Instead, the California Tower contains a 100-bell symphonic carillon, an electronic keyboard that plays music using a set of small, stationary chimes. For decades, eight large, gray bullhorn speakers mounted near the top of the 208-foot tower had been in place, notifying Balboa Park visitors of the time with quarter-hour chimes and playing noontime concerts pre-programmed by the park carillonneur.

Friends agreed to take on the speaker enhancement project in mid-2017 with a total project budget of approximately $32,000. After acoustical studies were performed and funding secured, the antiquated 1940s technology was replaced in early July 2018 with new weather-resistant, low profile speakers, set back into the tower’s upper arches for better concealment, offering improved sound quality.

“The old speakers, similar to those used in high school football stadiums, were old and unsightly amid the ornate, Spanish-style archways,” said David Marshall, volunteer project lead and Friends Board member. “For decades, they lead many to the misconception that the chimes are somehow fake. New wiring and a state-of-the-art amplifier were also installed.”

The project was made possible by the Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation, the Legler Benbough Foundation, George Hardy, City of San Diego, Dwight Gordon, David & Lesley Cohn, and numerous other donors and supporters. For a full list of project donors, see page 7.

National Carousel Day Welcomes Thousands

Round and round the carousel spun for the 2nd Annual National Carousel Day at the historic Balboa Park Carousel on July 25. Friends of Balboa Park welcomed over 3,000 visitors throughout the day to enjoy food, kids’ activities, family-friendly entertainment, and of course, free rides on the Carousel!!

This community celebration would not have been possible without the generous support of the County of San Diego, San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture, Marie Tuthill, Susan Hayes, Ed & Kathy Brown, Jim & Carmen Hughes, Bob & Beverly Russell, America’s Finest Sound, all the volunteers that helped make this event possible, and so many more!

Friends Supports Re-Creation of Historic Mural

Friends is proud to support our colleagues at The Committee of One Hundred for their efforts to re-create the extraordinary tile murals on Balboa Park’s San Diego Automotive Museum (originally, the California Building). We are a proud contributor to this effort.
Thank you for supporting the Balboa Park Carousel!

Capital Campaign Donors as of July 31, 2018

Premier Donor
William and Donna Steen (in-kind)

$200,000 +
J. W. Selton Foundation

$100,000 - $199,999
Tom and Jo Hazard
Legler Benbough Foundation
Robert and Andrea Peach
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
Gayle Breitbard Klusky
Jim and Carmen Hughes
The San Diego Foundation
Non-Endowment Fund of Hervey Family

The San Diego Foundation
The Ed & Mary
Ben and Nicole Clay

$50,000 - $99,999
Peter LaDow
Dorothy Laub
Kathy Lazzaro
Carole Sachs

$25,000 - $49,999
County of San Diego
Ruth Hayward
The Parker Foundation
San Diego Woman’s Club
Darlene Marcos Shiley
The Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation

$15,000 - $24,999
Balboa Park Conservancy
Tri Bennett; Bennett and Associates (in-kind)
Downing Family Foundation
Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation
Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Cyndy Furlong
Doug Kerner; Higgs, Fletcher and Mack (in-kind)
Bill and Lori Walton

$10,000 - $14,999
Carol & Henry F. Hunte Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Mike and Marilyn Kelley
Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation
Harley Sefton

$5,000 - $9,999
Ben and Nicole Clay
The Ed & Mary
Fletcher Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation
John Garbaczewski
George Hardy
Hervey Family
Non-Endowment Fund of The San Diego Foundation
Jim and Carmen Hughes
Kathryn and Michael Kim
Gayle Breitbard Klusky
Allison and Robert Price Family Fund
Alan and Nancy Spector
Neil Waltz

Rick, Tory, and Luke Gulley
Jerome’s Furniture
Keri Kapich
Kelby Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Ron and Gaye Lingley
Paul and Maggie Meyer in honor of Betty Peabody
Ross Porter and Roy de Vries
Bill and Joan Ritter
Tom* and Bonnie Scott
Arlene Simpson
Lisa Vieira
Carol Wells

$250 - $499
Glen and Betty Broom
Chris and Sue Christian in honor of Betty Peabody
Ronald Eger in honor of George Eger
Andy Fitchthom
Bobbi Hardiman
Carol Hoeve in honor of Donald Ward, Randy Ward, Donna Lewis, and Elizabeth McCann
Gail Kersgard
Leigh Kyle
Todd Little
Michael and Sandi May
Nana’s Heavenly Hot Dogs
Fred and Carol Orton
Bob and Beverly Russell
Al and Kathleen Steele
Ted Struck
Paula Taylor and Bernice Kulchin
The Thursday Club Foundation
Laura Tibbals
Mike and Jelaine Van Horne in memory of Al and Thelma Van Horne

$100 - $249
Joanne Albrecht
Pamela Baumgart
Josephine Bell
Barbara Benko
Eric and Anne Beste
Casey and Kathy Bilt in honor of Betty Peabody
Jack and Jackie Carpenter
Jerry Cesak
Jane Church
Kristan Clark in honor of Vally Ann Clark
Don and June Conner
Konnie Dadmun
Caroline DeMar
Rodger and Barbara Dishong
Richard and Colleen Doering Family Fund
James and Janet Dort
Richard and Byrne Eger Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation in honor of George Eger
Connie Englerts
Iris Engstrand
Arthur Everett
Vai and Dee Gee Farrell
Eric Fisher
Fleschli Family in honor of Betty Peabody and in memory of Bea Evenson
Patricia Fleming
Bill and Linda Fox
Patricia Frinell
Lester and Lynn Gardner
Michael and Jane Gilbert
Robert Halliday
Bobbi Hardiman
W. Thomas and Anna Harless
James and Maria Harrigan
Phil and Kay Harry in honor of Nancy Carol Carter
Larry and Anne Hill
Michael and Marie Huff
Kathy Kalab
Robert Kaye
Krisy Keller
Deidre Kleske
Klone Kurzel
Neil and Marjie Larson
Frank Lukehart
David Lynn
John and Renie Martin
Peg Marston and Anne Marston
Karon May
David McLean
Douglas McVey
Lyle Merithew and Eileen Swirsky
Lillian Miller
Tria McEachron
Tonia Moss
Toni Nickell
Ingrid Nielsen
James and Sue Ogle
Herman and Sharon Parker
David Peace
Andrea Robinson
Jean Samuels and Chester Yamaga
Judy Hagar Schons
in memory of Nancy Vaughan
Sherry Edwards
Gerry Eide
Sarah Evans
Carrie Flowers
Geralynn Fox in memory of Bernita Fox
Tom and Karen Fox in memory of Maxine Jean Larson
Catherine Gempka
Amy Getto
Phil and Lynn Gildred
Patricia Green in honor of Peter and Joan Saffrin's 50th wedding anniversary
Sandra Harding

Joe Silverman
Elaine Sommermeyer
Jean Stein in honor of Max Taklender, Julia Taklender, Somerset New-Stein and Jim Carr
Pam Stevens
Julie Stone
Sandra Staib
Christine Sullivan in memory of Richard Bradshaw
Super Detail, Inc.
Frank and Nancy Thompson
Michael and Suzanne Turner
Helen Wagner
Sandra Walrod
Randy Ward
Ken and Julie Warren
Lucy Warren
Larry and Patricia Williams
James Woodward
Sheila Wosk
Allan and Bev Zukor

$99 and under
Raymond and Vicky Abbott
Becky Adams
David Archibald
Frederick and Sheelah Baily
Melinda Balkom
Laurieann Barnett
Susan Batt
Nancie Best
Jon Bond
Linda Bonham
Coleen Burks
Marc and Tonya Carlos
Leila Champ
Bette Cohen in memory of Tom Scott
Ann Cole
Katharine Coop
Ran Daffer
Kelsey Dale in honor of Nancy Vaughan
Sherry Edwards
Gerry Eide
Sarah Evans
Carrie Flowers
Geralynn Fox in memory of Bernita Fox
Tom and Karen Fox in memory of Maxine Jean Larson
Catherine Gempka
Amy Getto
Phil and Lynn Gildred
Patricia Green in honor of Peter and Joan Saffrin's 50th wedding anniversary
Sandra Harding

Marcia Hazan in honor of Betsy Frank
Mari Huff
Sandra Jacobs
Kenneth and Janet Jaworski
Gaila Jennings
Carolyn Johnson
Jeanne Kinn
Patricia Kreder
Howard and Susan Labow
David and Jo Anna Lamott
Richard and Wendy Ledford
John and Florence Lestrang
Wade Lindenberg
Steven and Candice Lyford
Glenda Lynne in honor of Michelle Leckron
Joni Piekielek Marseke
Ric and Brenda Matthews
Judy McMoody
Virginia Morse
Diane Moss
Cody Nelson
Jill O’Brien
Nikki Orth in honor of Wendy Ledford
David and Arline Paa
Charles Parner
Chloe Pedersen
Jim Potter
Charles Rees
Terri Reeves
Butch and Suzanne Richardson
Anne Ritze
Cynthia Robinson
John Robinson
Nicholas Rogers
Anne Rosser
Lisette Scalo in honor of Angelo and Mary Scalo
Matthew Schiff
Ronald and Bonnie Sealey
Lisa Sides
Susanne Simpson and Sammy Feuerlicht
Carol Sing
Steven Smith
Aileen Teague in memory of Virginia Long
Ken and Mary Tranbarger
Joey Trimbly in memory of Arthur S. Trimble
Catherine Tyre
Kathy Velchev
Ruth Voorhes
Martha Webb
Gary Wilcken
Linda Ybarra

*Deceased
A Conversation with Bill Steen
by Reema Boccia, APR

For nearly 40 years, Bill Steen was the owner and operator of the historic Balboa Park Carousel prior to Friends of Balboa Park’s acquisition in 2017. Recently, Bill looked back on four decades of love and affection for this Balboa Park icon.

Q: What inspired you to purchase the Balboa Park Carousel more than 40 years ago?
Steen: Chatting with the previous owner, Virginia Long, over neighborhood ping-pong games. It eventually happened in 1977. As a civil engineer, I saw how I could return the carousel to its original configuration so it would be identified as one of the very few with that designation in the country. As I look back over the forty years of caring for the Carousel – the inspiration to restore it, kids helping out, and my wife, Donna, keeping track of the records – have all contributed to its success and national prominence.

Q: Why did you keep ticket rates so low all these years?
Steen: Our ticket prices were always set to be competitive with other attractions in the area, yet affordable for everyone. You have to make it accessible to kids and families.

Q: What specific feature of the Balboa Park Carousel is your favorite?
Steen: You can’t really point to just one. Watching and riding the Carousel with the band organ playing the ol’ time original roll music in the background, you can’t help but get nostalgic. My motto has always been, in this day and age when craftsmanship seems to be a dying flower, and mass production the rule of the day, why not forget the adult world for five minutes, relax, and enter a nostalgic dream world of the past, where happiness for children of all ages is a leisurely ride on a never ending course and fun is the order of the day!

Q: What made you think of Friends of Balboa Park as a potential steward of the Carousel?
Steen: We had talked to a number of people and organizations over the years, but Friends of Balboa Park was the only one that fit our requirement to keep the Carousel in the park for the continued enjoyment of all San Diegans and visitors. That was very important to our family.

Q: You discounted the purchase price of the Carousel by a significant amount, making you the biggest donor of Friends’ carousel capital campaign. What would you say to someone else considering support of the campaign?
Steen: I hope everyone realizes that they have to give back to the community. Future generations deserve to enjoy experiences that enrich our lives like what the Carousel makes possible. And Friends of Balboa Park is the right organization. They need everyone’s support.

Q: Do you still stop by and ride the Carousel?
Steen: Oh, yes, my family and I stop by now and then to ride the Carousel. After 40 years, it’s just in our blood.

Reema Boccia is Friends’ Communications Officer

For the full interview, visit www.friendsofbalboapark.org

To learn about Carousel sponsorship opportunities contact (619) 232-2282 or campaign@friendsofbalboapark.org
In late 2016, Friends of Balboa Park began developing plans to create a more aesthetically appealing protective barrier around the giant Moreton Bay Fig tree, located between the Natural History Museum and Spanish Village. Earlier this year, the project received the required approvals of the Balboa Park Committee and the Parks & Recreation Board. Once all plan sets are finalized, installation will begin, targeted for late 2018.

Once again, we thank donors Robert and Andrea Peach, Dorothea Laub and Betty Vale for their early support of this park enhancement project. To give a gift towards this effort or to learn more, contact info@friendsofbalboapark.org.

On the west side of Balboa Park is a 100-year-old redwood grove – “Redwood Circle” – planted by Kate Sessions for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. These sequoia trees had been doing well until the region-wide drought that began impacting Southern California in recent years. Native to Northern California, where trees can absorb coastal mist, sequoias are much more vulnerable to drought conditions now common here in the semi-arid climate of San Diego. As a result, the grove has fallen into serious decline, to the point of no return.

With the generous support of Friends’ benefactor Dorothea Laub, the removal of the dying and dead trees by a professional tree care contractor is scheduled for this fall. With the trees removed, Balboa Park staff will be able to expand the specimen diversity with drought-tolerant trees in the future.

The two newest additions to Friends of Balboa Park’s Landmark Signage program can now be found near the Balboa Park Carousel. One sign shares the history of the 1910 Carousel. The other - funded in part by our friends at the San Diego Zoo - includes history of the 1915 Isthmus Fun Zone and general directions to nearby attractions.

Be part of the magnificent annual seasonal displays in Balboa Park’s Botanical Building. Dedications $25 each
Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Donations received between April 1 through July 31, 2018

Simon Andrews
Assaf Family Fund
Wayne Bennett
Maureen Blackhall
Chris Cattell
Dean Crowder in memory of Alice Crowder and in support of the Field Trip Program
Ricardo and Hanna da Rosa
Dr. and Mrs. Olgard Dabbert
Richard and Diane DeBolt
Caroline DeMar
Suzie Ditmars
Henry Eimstad and Barbara Nolan
Len Filorame
Erin Fisher
Patricia Fleming
Raylene Gardiner
Frank Gilbert
Dwight Gordon
Randall Gorske in support of Twilight in the Park
George Hardy
Linda Harris
Susan Houser
Jim and Carmen Hughes in support of the Annual Butterfly Release
IBM Corporation employee matching program
Robert James
Connie Jamison
Jack Ladinsky
Dorothea Laub in support of the Redwood Circle project and the Awards Luncheon
Eric and Sheryl Lehmkohl
Lundsten Family of the Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Carole Massey
Douglas McVey in support of the Twilight Concert Series
Dick Moebius
Morey A. Feldman and Jeanne D. Feldman Family Endowment Fund
Lisbeth Morrison
Nordson Corporation Foundation in support of the Field Trip Program
Barbara Odorn
Ginny Olks
Betty Peabody
Pat Peterson
Linda Piro
Steve Power
Pratt Memorial Fund
Pacific Premier Bank in support of the Annual Butterfly Release
Susan Rick
Henry Romero
John and Veronica Rotsart
San Diego History Center in support of the Waterwise Project
Trudy Seeley
Bruce Shelton
Michelle Slingerland in honor of Patricia Miller
Jim Stengel
Paula Stober and Willard Bucklen Charitable Fund at Fidelity Charitable
Steve Stopper
The Frame Maker, requested by True Ryndes
The Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation
Ken and Mary Tranbarger
Trust, employee giving program
Marlene Turrentine
Village Nurseries
Kathleen Volle
B.J. Williams
Wilda Wong & Family in honor of the activists working for a democratic Hong Kong
YourCause, LLC (Sempra Employee Giving Network)

National Carousel Day
Ed and Kathy Brown
County of San Diego
Susan Hayes
Jim and Carmen Hughes
Bob and Beverly Russell
San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture
Marie Turthill

California Tower Speaker Replacement Project
Atlas Sound
Balboa Park Conservancy
Tina Culp Barton
Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
John and Melissa Bolthouse
City of San Diego
David and Lesley Cohn
Amy Dawson
Mark Dillon

Sarah Evans
Duyen Fenston
Ben Garcia
Dwight Gordon
George Hardy
Jean Harper
Lori Idebird
Doug and Gail Kerner
Jim Koerber
The Legler Benbough Foundation
David and Stacy Marshall
Veronica Pascencia
James and Cathy Potter
Rose Marie Rosyter
Trudy Seeley
Jodie Shape
Michelle Slingerland
Greg Stark
Steve Stopper
Ken and Mary Tranbarger
Nancy Vaughan
Alrene Way
Alan Zeleznikar
Sandor B. Phelps-Wilson Horticulture Fund
Robin Dreyfuss
Trygve Ekorn
Michelle Honig
Randy Laurie in celebration of Bob & Sandra’s birthday
Richard Pier
Howard and Barbara Sachs
Ian and Jean Walker

IN LOVING MEMORY

J. Elaine Cooper
Marilyn Brucker
Patricia DeMarche
James and Rita David
Mr. & Mrs. John Alton Farley
Lorraine Lownerison
Paul J. Hartley, Jr.
Charlotte Hartley
Lida V. Idebird
Lori Idebird
Barbara Hart McLean
David McLean
Tom Scott
Glenn and Barbara Goltz
Mike Waggner
Ross Porter and Roy de Vries

Recognizing contributions and celebrating the lives of loved ones, honorees are listed above, and acknowledgement cards are sent to their families, per the donor’s request.

For a list of donors to the Capital Campaign, see page 4.

Support the botanical beauty of Balboa Park

Sandra B. Phelps-Wilson Horticulture Fund
at Friends of Balboa Park
www.friendsofbalboapark.org/WilsonFund

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

Sweet Water Union High School’s New Perspective Club for volunteering at the annual Ice Cream Social on August 7 at Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

The 10th grade class from La Jolla Country Day School volunteered on August 22 at Bird Park.

Texas Roadhouse sponsored a major update in the Bird Wing garden in Bird Park in April 2018 with over 100 volunteers.
2018 EVENTS

18TH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON
Friday, October 19, 2018
11 AM – 1:30 PM
Balboa Park Club

HALLOWEEN FAMILY DAY
Saturday, October 27, 2018
11 AM – 5:30 PM
Balboa Park Carousel

VETERANS DAY AT THE CAROUSEL
Sunday, November 11, 2018
11 AM – 5:30 PM
Balboa Park Carousel

DECEMBER NIGHTS
Friday, December 7, 2018
3 PM – 11 PM
Saturday, December 8, 2018
Noon – 11 PM
Park-wide

ANNUAL POINSETTIA DISPLAY PARTY
Thursday, December 13, 2018
3 PM – 5 PM
Botanical Building
RSVP Requested