



**Friends of the
Palo Alto Junior
Museum & Zoo**

2010-2011 Annual Report



Dedicated to supporting and enhancing the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo

President's Message

It is my pleasure to present the 2010-2011 edition of our Annual Report. As you can see, the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo has been busy! We opened Africa's Bats, provided funding for the new science exhibit, Buzzzz, continued our Science Outreach Program in East Palo Alto and held Moms & Muffins, Halloween Zoo Night, Dads & Donuts and a Members-only opening event for Buzzzz.

As the Junior Museum and Zoo approaches its 77th year, the Museum is constrained by a facility that no longer reflects the needs of our visitors, collections, and operations and we are developing a master plan to address this. We have engaged an architectural firm and museum planning group to work with a broad array of stakeholders to address the JMZ's current and future needs.

We are truly thankful for the support from the City of Palo Alto, Friends Members and donors, and the surrounding communities who so generously donate time, money and their talents to us.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and hope to see you soon at the Junior Museum & Zoo!

Sincerely,

Aletha Coleman
President, Board of Directors



Introduction

The Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo shines as a community gem which strives to engage a child's curiosity in science and nature. In the heart of Palo Alto, the JMZ continues its mission with the support of the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo and its generous member base.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Friends reached substantial milestones in their efforts to support the JMZ and its mission. The following are some highlights of this year's activities.

Science Outreach Program



As part of our commitment to foster children's curiosity in science, the Friends' Science Outreach Program strives to extend quality science education to students in low-income areas.

Overall, the Friends sponsored 182 science classes for students in Willow Oaks Elementary School in East Palo Alto. Additional classes were also offered through a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula. JMZ instructors who visited these schools brought rich context and concrete elements to potentially abstract concepts like electricity, sound, animal lifestyles, chemical reactions and volcanoes.

Willow Oaks teachers have stated a high satisfaction with the caliber of JMZ instructors, hands-on materials, live animals, and how the class content ties directly to grade-appropriate curriculum.

Exhibits

Africa's Bats



The Friends and long-time supporter Karen Christensen funded the bat house renovation which resulted in a new exhibit, Africa's Bats, and opened in October 2010. The Friends helped the JMZ acquire 10 new Egyptian Fruit Bats to join the Straw-Colored Fruit Bats. The \$25,000 renovation features panoramic views of an African cave and tropical rain forest. The size and layout of the cave allows the bats to fly about the cave and climb along the vines and rocks as they groom each other and feed. Special effects such as special cave lighting, elaborate murals, and handcrafted fruit bowls help create an authentic African bat cave experience.

Buzzzz



Buzzzz lets kids explore the beauty of bugs and their fascinating life stories through hands-on exhibits and by observing living and pinned insects and spiders. Buzzzz encompasses various developmentally appropriate activities for children aged 0 to 9. The Friends gave nearly \$50,000 to help fund this exciting new exhibit which opened in June 2011.

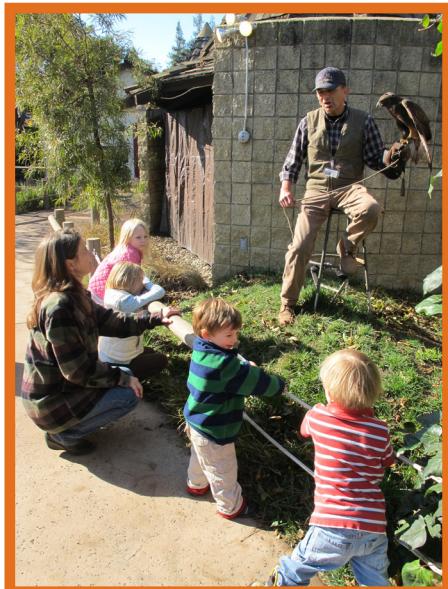
Events

We held four Members-only events over the past year: Moms & Muffins, Halloween Zoo Night, Dads & Donuts and the opening of Buzzzz.



These events allow Friends Members to visit the JMZ in a private setting. Invitation to these events is a popular benefit of becoming a Member.

We'd like to thank the following people and local businesses for their kind support of our events: Avid Bank, Bebecakes, Cannonball Winery, Fraiche, Hobee's, Lucky Supermarkets, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Roxy Rapp, Safeway, Silicon Valley Risk & Insurance.



Membership

300
Family
Memberships



Membership Gift: Puzzle

Financials

Donors are at the heart of everything the Friends do. With the support and dedication of hundreds of families and foundations within Palo Alto and across the Bay Area, the Friends can proudly further its mission.

During this fiscal year, our donation barrel in the museum lobby collected over \$82,000 from thousands of JMZ visitors. In addition, the Friends received over \$32,000 in membership donations. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and Board Members, we received over \$71,000 in annual giving donations.

Breakdown of Expenses

Program: 79%
Management/General: 14%
Fundraising: 7%

Board of Directors

Aletha Coleman, President

Chris Skarakis, Vice President

Scott Taylor, Treasurer

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Wendy Dransfield

Leonard W. Ely III

Julia Keady

Cynthia Neuwalder

Roxy Rapp

Matt Robinson

Tim Stitt

David Wright

JMZ Executive Director

John Aikin

Staff

Tayyeba Rizvi
Office Manager

Courtney Luxon
Development Assistant

Trudi Wallick-Horrocks
Friends Ambassador



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