

Make It a Date

Boo at the L.A. Zoo

Join us for a whole month of special spooky and safe family festivities, with haunted caves, fun photo opportunities, and much more. Proudly sponsored by 99 Cents Only Stores, Boo at the L.A. Zoo is daily, with special entertainment and animal enrichment on weekends. And don't miss trick-or-treating on October 29 and 30. All activities are free to GLAZA members

October 1 (Saturday) – 31 (Monday) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Boo at the L.A. Zoo

Upper-Level Members Preview

GLAZA members at the Family Deluxe level and above have the opportunity to experience the fun of trickor-treating at Boo at the L.A. Zoo before the Zoo opens to the public. Guest passes will not be honored at this event. To RSVP for this morning event, phone 323/644-4770 or to upgrade your support in order to attend, phone 323/644-4244.

October 29 (Saturday)





Dinosaurs: Unextinct at the L.A. Zoo

Magnificent creatures of the Mesozoic have made their home at the Zoo—but not for much longer! Don't miss your chance to come face-to-face with 17 life-size, lifelike animatronic dinosaurs during an adventure that includes photo ops (for the ultimate #SelfieSaurus), a fossil dig, and 3D augmented reality content that can be unlocked on your smartphone through the Dinosaurs: Unextinct at the L.A. Zoo app. This experience isn't only about traveling to the past—it's also about life on Earth today. Discover fascinating connections between dinosaurs and Zoo residents as well as ways you can join efforts to protect endangered species. Separate admission equired. Tickets cost \$5 (children under two are admitted free) and are available at the Zoo and online at www.lazoo.org/dinos.

Daily through October 31 10 a.m.-4 p.m.





Uncover the secrets of camouflage and discover how patterns on fur, feathers, scales, and skin help animals survive during Now You See Me, Now You Don't—one of the Zoo's new 90-minute family classes that offer special opportunities for your family to share in an adventure while learning about amazing animals. For more information about family classes, see page four of this issue.

October 29 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m.





In pursuit of our mission to nurture wildlife and enrich the human experience, the Zoo has worked diligently to build enduring relationships throughout the Los Angeles community and indeed around the world to improve the status of animals. In 2003, donor and former Zoo Commission President Shelby Kaplan Sloan established the

Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund to encourage our animal care staff to pursue professional development opportunities in the field.

From the outset, it made possible numerous collaborations that allowed Zoo staff to lend their experience and expertise to field programs around the world—and our keepers return with new insights into the species we care for at the

Zoo. This year, Shelby Kaplan Sloan made the decision to pursue other projects, and donor and former trustee Dominic Ornato has taken up the mantle of the good work that Shelby Sloan started.

Growing up, Dominic's family had cats and dogs that were an important part of his formative years. His affection for animals expanded from those early experiences, and upon learning of this







VULTURE CULTURE

Continued

Though they are frequently grouped with raptors, vultures are unique. Like other birds of prey, they are strictly carnivorous, however their diet consists almost exclusively of carrion and they therefore have many distinctive adaptations that set them apart. Because they do not need to kill their food, they lack the powerful talons for which raptors are named. Their sharp, hooked beaks are primarily for ripping apart carrion, and because they plunge their heads and necks into carcasses, the lack of feathers makes them less susceptible to bacteria and viruses. Their digestive systems feature strong acids that break down tough tissues and kill pathogens. Also, unlike solitary hunters such as hawks and eagles, they feed communally and lead complex social lives.

"They are always group feeding with other vultures and also other predators that could take them out, so they have to read every situation and be one flight ahead of everything," comments Curator of Birds Mike Maxcy. "Eagles sometimes will share with vultures for large carrion, but most birds of prey would not tolerate others near their kill. And vultures have to. They have to study and understand their surroundings, be completely aware, and—like humans—know their place in the hierarchy."

Perhaps the most famous of the Zoo's vultures is a species that you will not find on exhibit. The L.A. Zoo was one of the founding organizations in the California Condor Recovery Program, and these remarkable birds remain a cornerstone of the Zoo's conservation work. Though none are currently on exhibit, visitors to the California Condor Rescue Zone can watch the birds on the condor cam and might catch a glimpse of Dolly, our special California condor ambassador. The future may hold new possibilities for sharing this iconic species with the public.

The only Andean condor on exhibit at the Zoo is Leadbottom. Leadbottom hatched at the Zoo on June 18, 1983 and had to be hand raised because he kept falling out of his nest—hence his name. After many years with the World of Birds Show, he began having some health issues, so he retired to his current exhibit in the South America section. Two additional Andean condors, KC and Sunshine, are members of the World of Birds Show cast.

Mort, also a member of the Bird Show cast, is a northern black vulture. Black vultures and turkey vultures are the most common vultures in North America. Both are large birds with wingspans of five to six feet—but that's only about half the size of America's largest flying bird: the California condor. Black vultures maintain close social ties with their extended families throughout their lives.

Excluding Andean and California condors, the king vulture is the largest of the New World vultures with a wingspan of about six feet. In Mayan culture, the king vulture was seen as a messenger between humans and the gods and was sometimes depicted as a god with the head of a bird and the body of a man. Two colorful king vultures are on exhibit in the South America section—a female next door to the crested screamers and a male next door to the anteater. Boz is featured in the World of Birds Show cast and can be seen during performances.

The L.A. Zoo has had a long history with Cape vultures, located across from the South America picnic area (and often missed by visitors). Since 1996, some 40 eggs have been laid and about 20 chicks fledged. These majestic birds can reach up to 8.5 feet in wingspan and up to 24 pounds in weight. They are gregarious and nest in colonies. "With the Cape vultures being our only African species, they are completely different than the New World species in attitude," comments Maxcy. "It's our only exhibit that houses a flock and a great opportunity to see their social interactions."

International Vulture Awareness Day takes place on September 3 this year. It began with separate initiatives started by the Birds of Prey Programme in South Africa and the Hawk Conservancy Trust in England. Interest in these unique and vitally important birds has grown and so have the number of organizations participating in IVAD. Learn more at www.vultureday.org and be sure to check www.lazoo.org for IVAD activities at the Zoo!

Cape vultures

2. black vulture

3. Andean condor

4. California condor

animal activities at your Zoo May 1-June 30

Hatchings in May and June included six black-headed weavers, four greater flamingos, three laughing kookaburras, and two violaceous turacos. Births included two bighorn sheep, four giant otters, six Nigerian dwarf goats, a crested capuchin monkey, and three peninsular pronghorn.

rongnorn.
Three California condors in need of

medical treatment were treated and returned to the wild. A number of new LAIR residents arrived: two Baja blue rock lizards, two eastern box turtles, a Florida box turtle, and three painted river terrapins. Additional transfers included a plush-crested jay, a pudu, a gerenuk, a Sichuan takin, a Sumatran tiger, and an Anatolian shepherd dog.

Among the outgoing animals were two Nubian ibex, a Prevost's squirrel, a black howler monkey, two Verreaux's sifakas, a South American bushmaster, a speckled rattlesnake, a Bali starling, a sarus crane, a Ross's turaco, and a white-crested turaco.

black-headed weaver chick



opportunity to support the Zoo, he embraced it.

"This will sound sort of strange," he commented, "but if I go to the park near where I live and I see dogs, I love every one of them. I've never met an animal that I didn't like, but I can't always say that for people." Underwriting the Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund is Dominic's way of showing his affection for animals and

support for the people who care about them as much as he does.

Animal Keeper Lori Rogalski was the recipient of this year's Animal Keeper Advanced Studies grant, the last under the Sloan fund. With it, she traveled to Bali and participated in a project there that is attempting to save some of the rarest birds in the world from extinction. The species of particular interest to

Lori is the Bali starling. The Zoo houses one breeding pair of these elegant blue and white birds in the off-exhibit Avian Conservation Center (ACC), where it is hoped that they will produce offspring.

By broadening and deepening our keepers' skills, these grants help us ensure in the highest welfare for our collection and the introduction of zoo professionals' skills to field practitioners.

Photos courtesy of Lori Rogalski

A new keeper project has just been awarded under the Ornato program—Animal Keeper Andrea Delegal will complete the Tasmanian Devil Captive Management Course in 2017 at the Trowunna Wildlife Park in Australia. We look forward to sharing with you a future story about that.

WINGING IT

by Animal Keeper Lori Rogalski

Los Angeles Zoo animal keepers regularly participate in field projects where their expertise benefits endangered species. Established in 2003 by donor and former Zoo Commission President Shelby Kaplan Sloan, the Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund (now underwritten by donor and former trustee Dominic Ornato) encourages these opportunities. Earlier this year, Animal Keeper Lori Rogalski took a break from the Zoo's Avian Conservation Center, where she cares for many rare bird species, to participate in a Bali starling conservation project. Her goal was to lend her skills to the project and to gain insights that might enhance the Zoo's efforts to breed its Bali starlings. She shared her insights in a series of blog entries.

After over 24 hours of traveling, I finally arrive at Pejeng, Bali, home to the Friends of National Parks Foundation headquarters. Gede Nyoman Bayu Wirayudha (we call him Bayu) founded the organization to protect land for orangutans and later added the critically endangered Bali starling to his mission. This bird is the only endemic vertebrate in Bali, and its numbers are so low that it was once thought to be extinct in the wild. Bayu knew these beautiful birds were worth saving and is working hard to breed and release them back into the wild. And I couldn't agree more. The L.A. Zoo has one pair of Bali starlings that we would love to see produce chicks, but they have not been cooperating. All these reasons, and a few more, are why I am here.

At 6 a.m., I am awakened by sounds of kettledrums next door, chanting, dogs barking, roosters crowing, and, best of all, Bali starlings singing! I hop out of bed, slather myself in mosquito repellent and sunscreen, then meet Bayu in the yard. We go straight to work, heating up "baby food" for the Bali starling chicks and collecting mealworms and crickets for the Bali starling chicks and the black-winged starling chick. We listen for the chicks as the parents are in the nest boxes feeding them and then sneak a peak inside when the parents are done. Unfortunately, one of the Bali starling chicks passed away overnight, but its sibling looks healthy. The black-winged starling is looking well, too. The rest of the day doesn't slow down; the chicks need to be fed every two hours, and we take a scooter to the local bird store to buy more crickets. We clean the trays of mealworms, and I observe a beautiful pair of pied mynahs who seem to be setting on their own eggs. This pair later rewards me by flying into my head every time I feed them.

In the evening, I feed all the birds by myself in the pouring rain—it's surprisingly peaceful. We waste nothing; the goats and fish get leftovers, we pick up fallen flowers to feed the crickets, and the dirt from the mealworms makes excellent fertilizer. Not a bad start for my first day!

As my first week comes to an end, I am more comfortable in this environment. It's always wet or raining; nothing is ever quite dry, and I've grown used to the unusual mixture of smells that lingers in the air. I love sitting on my porch watching the wildlife around me. Brightly colored lizards wander by, toads and frogs hop past, butterflies float around, and the sky is filled with a variety of birds.

I continue to wake up at dawn with sounds of starlings, crickets, and roosters. I feed the birds first thing. They



recognize me now, so as I walk by their enclosures to get to the kitchen, they fly toward me, vocalizing. I smile and tell them good morning. They yell at me that they are hungry, which I take as a "good morning" back.

Unfortunately, the second Bali starling chick died too. The adults are just not good parents and fed themselves before the baby. Both were hand raised and never learned how to properly be a parent. So we separate them and each will get a new parent-raised mate in the hope that the new partners will teach them how to care for chicks. Luckily, the black-winged starling parents are great! They even fight over who gets to feed the chick first. We are also eagerly awaiting the hatching of the Asian pied starling chicks. As I get their meals ready, tiny geckos zoom around on the kitchen wall and call out to their mates. Not bad company, if you ask me.

My own lunch here is also an adventure. I take a walk up the road, dodging motorbikes, and find a food stall, or warung, owned by a friendly woman named Annie. She stir-fries the local favorite—red rice, vegetables, chilies, and eggs—and serves it fresh to me. This amazing dish is only \$2! She teaches me some Balinese, and I teach her some English before I make my way back to the birds. The birds and FNPF office live rent-free at a local school, so I share the space with playing children and friendly teachers. A sign above one of the classrooms says, "Today I will cause no harm." What a great lesson to teach! I read it many times a day and keep this phrase in my mind.

To read more, visit www.lazoo.org/blog/2016/08/08/sloan-grant-bali-starling/.



- 1. Juvenile Bali starlings being reared in the sanctuary.
- Animal Keeper Lori Rogalski and Bayu.



LEAVE A WILD LEGACY

Members of the Selig Legacy Society have the vision and dedication needed to support the wellbeing of the Los Angeles Zoo, its inhabitants, and conservation work well into the future. Have you considered including GLAZA in your estate plans? Those who include GLAZA in their wills are investing in an institution like no other; a place fully committed to animals, the environment, and our community. Selig Society members enjoy an annual, behind-the-scenes tour and luncheon with Zoo Director John Lewis and GLAZA President Connie Morgan and are recognized on the Zoo's entry plaza donor wall and in GLAZA's annual report. Most importantly, Selig partners ensure the future of the Zoo's work for generations to come. If you'd like to know more about how you can leave a legacy at the Zoo, contact Senior Director of Advancement John Morrison at 323/644-4782 or jmorrison@lazoo.org.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Zoo do not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon reasonable advance notice, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request with reasonable advance notice prior to the event or activity you wish to attend. For further information, please contact: 323/644-4200 (voice/TTY).



Volume XL Number 2

Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association Annual Memberships: Individual \$55, Individual Plus \$75, Family \$126, Family Deluxe \$165, Contributing Associate \$50, Wildlife Associate \$50, Conservation Associate \$1,000. Each membership category includes unlimited admission to the Los Angeles Zoo for one year, one-year subscriptions to Zoo View and Zooscape, 10-percent discount at Zoo restaurants and shops, and invitations to special events. Students and seniors receive \$10 off an annual membership.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and the Golden State (I-5) freeways. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except December 25.

For information, phone 323/644-4200, or visit us on the Internet at www.lazoo.org.
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Nurturing wildlife and enriching the human experience



CONSERVATION CORNER: Condor Update by Curator Mike Maxcy

The California Condor Recovery Project facility at the L.A. Zoo began in the 1980s with three trailers—one became the office, one was dedicated to incubation and brooding, and chicks are housed in the third. They've served us well these many years, but are past their prime. This year, we were fortunate enough to receive an \$80,000 grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), so the Zoo's construction crew is working on a new structure where we will do all our incubating and maybe some chick rearing. Though it will be about the same size, it

will have temperature control, which is critical when you have incubators going, and will make this task a lot easier.

The game plan is to replace each of the remaining trailers as funding becomes available and eventually have a new compound. Something that has been discussed for years is incorporating a behind-the-scenes viewing area where we have one-way glass set up at one of the exhibits or breeding pens.

After 30 years, the USFWS is at the point where they've almost reached full capacity of staffing to monitor condors. So before

long, we're going to have birds that won't be wing-tagged or fitted with transmitters. There are going to be nests out there that no one knows about, and we'll truly have a wild population—for better or for worse. At some point, they'll probably have isolated areas that they'll maintain and check, but there will be large groups of birds that will go unmonitored and they'll only get larger. But that's a good problem to have. The L.A. Zoo will continue to play a vital role in expanding the condor population and providing veterinary care for wild birds.



California condors in Big Sur.

MEMBERS ONLY

Meet some of our engaging animal residents during this special walking tour. Then, head to Reggie's Bistro and enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres and crafts for the young at heart. This event is open to Patron members at the Contributing, Wildlife, and Conservation circles only. To upgrade your membership and join us for this enchanting evening, phone 323/644-4244. September 24 (Saturday) 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Wildlife (\$500) and Conservation Circle (\$1,000) levels, watch your mailbox for an invitation with details. To upgrade your support and enjoy this exclusive event, phone 323/644-4244 October 8 (Saturday), 6–8:30 p.m.

Docent-led tours are available to GLAZA members only and are free for everyone eligible on your membership. No confirmations will be mailed. Please make reservations at least two weeks in advance by phoning 323/644-4244.

September 10 (Saturday) September 11 (Sunday) September 17 (Saturday) September 18 (Sunday) October 1 (Saturday) October 2 (Sunday) October 15 (Saturday) October 16 (Sunday) November 5 (Saturday) November 6 (Sunday) November 19 (Saturday) November 20 (Sunday) (Meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace at 10:30 a.m.)

SELIG LEGACY SOCIETY

By including GLAZA in their estate plans, Selig Legacy Society members permanently enhance the welfare of the Zoo's animal residents and ensure the vitality of the Zoo for generations to come. This annual event is just for them. To learn how to include GLAZA in your will or estate plan, contact Senior Director of Advancement John Morrison at 323/644-4782 or jmor-

October 20 (Thursday), 9:30 a.m.

SAFARI SOCIETY ONLY

GLAZA's upper-level, annual giving program offers donors exclusive and unique opportunities to explore the Zoo. To join Safari Society, phone the Develop-ment office at 323/644-6035 or visit www.lazoo.org/support/safarisociety. Conscientious corporate leaders support the Zoo through Business Partners. For details about this program, contact Jan Frazier at 323/644-4722.

ROARING NIGHTS

September's Roaring Night celebrates Blade and special tributes to David Bowie and Prince. Guests can add more "roar" to their night by exploring

Safari Society and Business Partners donors watch your e-mailbox for your event featuring animal encounters, dinner, and music. To join Safari Society and attend this all-time favorite Zoo evening, phone the Development office at 323/644-6035.

September 3 (Saturday), 6–8 p.m.

Dinosaurs: Unextinct at the L.A. Zoo. Must be at least 18 years of age to www.lazoo.org/roaringnights. September 16 (Friday)

L.A. ZOO PHOTO DAY

takes place on November 6, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This fantastic opportunity for photographers of all ages and skill levels is presented jointly by Paul's Photo and GLAZA. Paul's Photo experts and representatives from the greatest brands in photography will be on hand to assist you. Take advantage of limited-loan equipment from major manufacturers and enjoy a catered lunch, a T-shirt, and a full day of photography. (Guests receive lunch and early Zoo admission only.) Registration is

now open—sign up early for significant savings! Photographers who are GLAZA members, students with valid school ID, or Paul's Photo Club members receive a \$10 discount (no discount for at-the-door registration). For registration forms, phone 323/644-4703, e-mail volunteers@lazoo.org, or register online at www.lazoo.org/photoday.

Registration fees are:

September 1-November 3: photographers \$175/guests \$70 November 4-6: photographers \$200/guests \$80

SPECIAL TOURS

These tours are free to GLAZA members, but space is limited. To register, e-mail docents@lazoo.org and be sure to include "Bird Walk" or "Garden Tour" in the subject line. You will receive a link to complete your registration through Eventbrite.com. You may also phone 323/644-4703.

Have you met your wild neighbors? The Zoo is home to many native birds. During this morning bird walk we'll introduce you to your avian neighbors and maybe spot an exotic visitor or two. November 19 (Saturday)

Plants all have stories to tell. Many are survivors of long vanished worlds. On this tour we'll see plants that shared ancient landscapes with animals from dinosaurs to saber-toothed tigers. November 12 (Saturday)

Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016





ED-ZOO-CATIONAL Adventures

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO WWW.LAZOO.ORG/EDUCATION/CHILDRENSCLASSES/. TO REGISTER, GO TO WWW.LAZOO.ORG AND CLICK ON "BUY TICKETS." Registration Policy: Registration for Ed-zoo-cational Adventures begins two months prior to the program date. Please check www.lazoo.org for class availability. For more information, phone 323/644-4211.

TODDLER TOTES

Age 24–35 months Members: \$18 per child/adult pair Nonmembers: \$20 per child/adult pair Class Times: 9 a.m. (Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays), and 11 a.m. (Fridays and Saturdays)

E-ticket required for class admission. Toddler Totes classes are educational adventures for your child and you. Learn about adaptations as you investigate the Zoo's animal collection and discover the ways animals use different parts of their bodies. Each 75-minute class includes a variety of fun, age-appropriate, handson activities such as storytelling, live animal encounters, and explorations on

October 5 (Wednesday), 7 (Friday), and 8 (Saturday)

November 2 (Wednesday), November 4 (Friday), and November 5 (Saturday)

CAMP OPENS OCTOBER 24!

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER ZOO

CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

Members: \$24 per child/adult pair Nonmembers: \$27 per child/adult pair Class Time: 9 a.m. (Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays)
E-ticket required for class admission.

Critter 'n' Kids classes take your child and you on an exploration of the Zoo's animal collections, from cool cats and exciting elephants to slithering snakes and fabulous flamingos. Each 90-minute class includes a variety of fun, ageappropriate, hands-on activities such as storytelling, art, games, and adventures on Zoo grounds

October 12 (Wednesday), 14 (Friday), and 15 (Saturday)

November 9 (Wednesday) and November 12 (Saturday)



ZOO EXPLORERS

Age 5-6 years Members: \$30 per child Nonmembers: \$35 per child Class Time: 9 a.m. E-ticket required for class admission.

Grab your backpack and explore the Zoo to learn about biomes, from deserts to mountains, grasslands to rainforests. Trek over the rivers and through the woods to seek out amazing animals that call these habitats home. This drop-off class is designed for children independent of their parents. All children must bring water and a snack for this three-hour class.

October 22 (Saturday)

COURSES AND LECTURES Observing Animals: Behavioral **Studies in Zoos (UCLA Extension)** Taught by L.A. Zoo Director of Research Dr. Cathleen Cox, this introductory course covers methods and techniques of studying animal behavior: recognizing individual animals, producing accurate descriptions of

FAMILY CLASSES

Members: \$10 per person/children under 2 are free Nonmembers: \$20 per adult/\$15 per child (ages 2-12)/children under 2 are free

E-ticket required for class admission. Bring your family to the Zoo for a special adventure. These 90-minute classes offer a unique opportunity for families to share in an adventure while learning about amazing animals.

October 29 (Saturday)

November 26 (Saturday)

Class Time: 9:30 a.m.

behavior, recognizing and organizing behaviors into an ethogram, and collecting quantitative data. In addition to lectures and demonstrations, participants conduct study projects on selected species at the Zoo. No prerequisites. Enrollment limited. Classes take place on Thursday evenings with the exception of Novem-ber 24. Training for projects takes place

Bring your group or troop to the Zoo for this indoor overnight, interactive experience. Tour the Zoo after dark, enjoy a pizza/salad feast, participate in hands-on animal activities, and fall asleep to beastly bedtime stories. In the morning, enjoy a continental breakfast while meeting some of our animal ambassadors. Scout groups have the opportunity to earn a badge for this activity. This event is designed for children, ages seven through twelve. Cost is \$55 per person. Schedule for the 2016–2017 school year is at www. lazoo.org/education. Contact Sean den Bok at 323/644-4212 for assistance.

SLEEPOVERS

on Saturday, October 15. For details, contact Dr. Cox at 323/644-4204. For registration, contact UCLA Extension at 310/825-9971 or 818/784-7006, or visit www.uclaextension.edu.
September 22 (Thursday) through
December 15 (Thursday), 7:30–10 p.m.
Classroom C, Children's Discovery

Cancellation Policy: The Zoo must receive at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice by phone (323/644-4211) or fax (323/644-4299) in order to issue a full refund. No refunds will be issued after this period. No refunds or transfers will be honored for no-shows. Prices and program dates are subject to change without notice. For more details about cancellation, transfer, refund, and booking policies, visit www.lazoo.org.