



*Making
Democracy
Work*

San Diego Voter

April 2011

Volume 75, No. 10

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

Unit meetings this month will have varied topics chosen by the unit members for study. The Unit meeting schedule is on page 3.

Southeastern

Housing for Newly-released Prisoners

Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch

Balboa Park – Advocacy on Behalf of the Citizens of San Diego

Coronado

Services to Seniors in Coronado

La Jolla and Rancho Bernardo

Balboa Park “Conservancy”

University City

Vocational Ed in High Schools and Privatization

Tierrasanta

Charter Schools Speaker — see page 5

Mission Valley

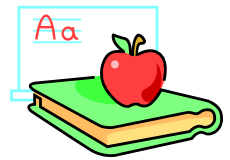
Redistricting CA – the Process!

East San Diego

Minors Released from Social Services

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S EFFORT TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Equitable Access to Quality Education: Readiness to Learn (LWV California 2005



position): All children should enter school ready to learn to their fullest potential. Measures to ensure this are: school readiness programs, including universal access to preschools that are high quality, developmentally appropriate, and voluntary outreach to and support for parents of young children to enable parents to contribute to their child's readiness to learn.

The San Diego City League's Education Committee has focused its attention on early childhood education for the past two years. Our April Unit meetings direct our attention to the San Diego County Preschool For All Demonstration Project. Members of the education committee enjoyed visiting several of these preschools in February. At the April Unit meetings you will see a video about the demonstration project.

(continued on page 4)

See Luncheon Flyer

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- > Luncheon Flyer

Another San Diego LWV Unit?

We have been asked by a number of individuals to start another unit in the North Park/Downtown area. If you would be interested in attending and/or helping to organize this potential unit, please contact Dolores Nelson at 619-421-9094 or prncpl@cox.net.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Returning from the United Nations!

During the annual session of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women in February, Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, launched the newly created UN Women, an entity that merges the work of four agencies (e.g., UNIFEM) and offices at the U.N. As the Executive Director of UN Women, Dr. Bachelet announced the starting agenda will focus on five areas: expanding women's voices, leadership, and participation in national life; ending violence against women; strengthening the roles of women in peace and security; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and putting gender equality at the center of national and local planning and budgeting. As members of the U.N., all 192 countries must now seriously implement actions to ensure the success of UN Women. Dr. Bachelet stated, "Women's strength, women's industry, women's wisdom are humankind's greatest untapped resource," she added. "The challenge then for UN Women is to show our diverse constituencies how this resource can be effectively tapped in ways that benefit us all."

The logo for UN Women uses the familiar women's symbol that includes an extra horizontal cross bar to form an equal sign, representing equality between men and women, side by side in shades of blue. The round shape of the women's symbol contains the globe, which also suggests equality for women worldwide.



While en route to San Diego, I thought about the beginning of the LWV in 1920, when many members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association joined League, a seamless and brilliant way of transferring membership from the state and local suffrage organizations. Although the suffragists supported and opposed candidates, the League in its formative stage became staunchly nonpartisan, never supporting political parties or candidates. As founder Carrie Chapman Catt noted, "Is the League political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as other women to join and vote with the party of their choice. They make no pledge otherwise in joining the League."

The League continues to be recognized as nonpartisan but also as one of the best sources of information about government—as well as being a training ground for women interested in pursuing service in elected office (e.g., Congresswoman Susan Davis). Recently I read that the LWV personifies a selfless devotion to honest government. Hear! Hear! We can only hope that UN Women garners such respect.

Upon returning from the U.N., I received an email from Susan Baer stating that she was resigning as Co-President, member of the Board of Directors, and Public Policy Committee Chair. As highlighted in our February Voter, Susan was selected to serve on LWVUS's Privatization Study Committee. She also serves as an alternate on the city's Redistricting Commission. During her years in League, Susan has always given 100% to every role or task, including serving as First Vice-President, Chair of the 90th Anniversary Gala Luncheon, Co-President, and

Chair of the Public Policy Committee. For now, we miss her leadership, dedication, and intellect. When she completes her numerous projects, we hope that she will again assume leadership roles in League.

— Anne Hoiberg, President

League of Women Voters San Diego Board of Directors 7/10 - 6/11

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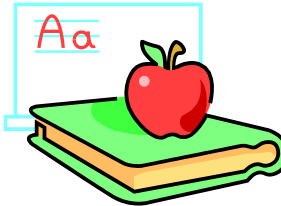
They are funded by Preschool for All from the First Five allocation to San Diego County. What is "First Five," you may be wondering. Well, the LWVC had something to do with its founding when we supported the passage of the Proposition 10 Initiative in 1998. It added a 50-cent per pack tax on cigarettes and a comparable tax on other tobacco products. Statewide the initiative generates approximately \$700 million per year. Twenty percent of the revenue goes to the First Five Commission of California for statewide leadership, policy development, public education, and outreach. Eighty percent of the revenue is allocated to local commissions based upon the number of births within the county that the commission serves.

The San Diego Board of Supervisors established the San Diego County Children and Families Commission, later renamed the First Five Commission of San Diego in 1998 to implement Proposition 10 on the local level. The commission consists of five members with a member of the San Diego Board of Supervisors who acts as chairperson. The current chairwoman is Pam Slater Price. The other members are the Director of the County Health and Human Services, an appointee chosen by Health and Human Services, and two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. There is an advisory committee made up of experts in the field of early childhood health, education, parenting skills, nutrition, etc.

The First Five Commission of San Diego works to achieve its vision through advocacy, funding of services for young children, serving as a leader for coordinating and integrating resources, and building community capacity and infrastructure to support families. The Commission developed a five year strategic and implementation plan, with extensive input from local residents. The current strategic plan

has set priorities for allocation of funds through 2012.

Most of the funding is granted to local agencies to provide services to children and families. It provides San Diego's youngest children with a safety net. It is committed to the vision that all San Diego children will enter kindergarten "Ready to Succeed".



Programs include Healthy Development (development, speech, language, hearing, vision, and behavior assessments), School Readiness (First 5 for Parents, funding assistance to preschools and child care centers in low income areas of the county), Healthcare Access (assistance in getting enrolled in California State Insurance), Oral Health, and Childcare Services. Service providers are located in all areas of the county.

The American Academy of Pediatrics San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter sent out a call to action on March 11. They are strongly opposed to the diversion of funds from the First Five budget. "Governor Brown's proposed diversion of funds away from First Five will have direct impact on available services for the children that need them most," the Academy asserts. They urged their members to contact their state legislators and the governor to express opposition to diverting funds from First Five.

Come to the April unit meetings to learn more about the services provided our youngest citizens and to discuss ways that we can advocate for continued funding for early childhood education. Join us at the luncheon on Friday, April 29, to learn more about closing the achievement gap through Preschool for All, Dual Language Learning, and Transitional Kindergarten.

— Francis Venn, Education Committee

Tierrasanta Unit of The League of Women Voters

invites you to learn about

Charter Schools

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 from 1 - 3 p.m.

Tierrasanta Public Library

4985 La Cuenta Drive, San Diego 92124 (Corner of Tierrasanta Blvd. and La Cuenta Dr.)

Speaker: Lisa Berlanga, Regional Director of California Charter School Association for San Diego, Orange, and Imperial Counties, will speak to us and then answer discussion questions.

The discussion will center on pros and cons of charter schools.

BALBOA PARK

Balboa Park, San Diego's 142 year old beloved "crown jewel," is receiving intense scrutiny these days on two fronts. As we approach the centennial celebration of the 1915 Panama Exposition, two major developments are underway: 1) governance and funding for current and ongoing maintenance and management of the park., and 2) proposals for removal of cars from the park to restore pedestrian use of Plaza de Panama. Both of these subjects were brought to our attention in a letter from President Anne Hoiberg in the November Voter. The Rancho Bernardo Unit and other interested Leaguers have been monitoring these issues for almost two years.

GOVERNANCE

A study entitled "The Soul of San Diego - Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in its Second Century" January 2008, reports a minimum of \$238 million in capital and infrastructure needs in the park. The study presented three alternatives for addressing the shortfall: 1) The city retain park ownership but enter into an agreement with a private non-profit entity (conservancy); 2) The city sign a Joint Powers Agreement with one or more governmental agencies; 3) The city create a new district to run Balboa Park. The mayor and city council decided in favor of the conservancy alternative.

In December 2008, the Balboa Park Committee requested that the mayor and city council create a task force to study and consider formation of a new public benefit, non-profit organization "to assist with governance, fundraising and management of Balboa Park through a contractual agreement with the city." As a result, in October 2009 the mayor appointed the 17 member Balboa Park Task Force. The report of the task force, "The Future of Balboa Park: Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in its Second Century," recommended formation of a Balboa Park Organizing Committee whose mission would be to create a 501(c)(3) to establish the Balboa Park Conservancy and develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the conservancy and the city of San Diego to delineate their respective roles, and to begin to raise funds for ongoing park maintenance and operation.

In September 2010 the mayor appointed an eleven member Balboa Park Organizing Committee. Initial funds of \$120,000 were provided to the committee by three local foundations: the Parker Foundation, the Legler Benbough Foundation, and the San Diego Foundation. The organizing committee has held several meetings and is in the process of developing vision, mission, and values statements, bylaws, content for the MOU, hiring of an executive director and support staff, and consideration of additional board members. The first opportunity for public input will

be when the MOU is brought to the city council sometime before the end of this year. The eleven committee members will be the nucleus of the larger conservancy.



A study by the Trust for Public Land on public-private partnerships operating large, complex parks in other major cities facing similar financial problems shows that creating a vehicle dedicated to the over-all well being of a beloved park is conducive to attracting significant financial support.

Although the conservancy plan is intended to keep Balboa Park in city ownership, League members have expressed concern that the new structure may lack transparency if it is not subject to the Brown Act, that there may be new charges to park users which would reduce public access, that museums and other arts and cultural facilities, who have their own needs, may have too much influence over land use decisions, and that jobs within the park may be outsourced to private companies. It will be very important to carefully review the MOU when it becomes available. As always, the devil will be in the details.

PLAZA DE PANAMA

San Diego philanthropist Dr. Irwin Jacobs and his new non-profit Plaza de Panama Committee have stepped forward with a \$39 million plan for eliminating cars from the plaza. The plan includes a bypass bridge from the eastern end of the Cabrillo Bridge around the south wing of the Museum of Man to the Alcazar parking lot behind the House of Charm which would serve people with disabilities. From there it would veer East to connect with an underground parking lot behind the Spreckels Organ Pavilion featuring a landscaped roof. This underground structure has been in the Park's Central Mesa Precise Plan since 1992. The underground parking lot seems to be generally accepted (although some would prefer to have all parking beyond the perimeter of the park and supported by an extensive tram system).

Although early meetings of the Plaza de Panama Committee were "invitation only," there have been a series of public presentations in recent months and a workshop held by the Balboa Park Committee on January 8, 2011 where public input was mostly critical of the bypass bridge. At a meeting on February 3, 2011 the consultant presented four alternatives to the original plan but they all, admittedly, had fatal flaws.

(Continued on following pages)

There is near unanimous support for removing parking from Plaza de Panama and replacing it with a well-designed, pedestrian-friendly gathering place. But how to achieve this has become very controversial. The bypass bridge is seen by some, especially the Save Our Historical Organization (SOHO), as destructive to the historical integrity of the Cabrillo Bridge and out of character with the Spanish Colonial architecture of the buildings. A letter from the San Diego Zoo criticized spending \$39 million for a net increase of only 272 parking spaces. Others believe that the Cabrillo Bridge should be closed to automobile traffic altogether. Some are opposed to the structure behind the organ pavilion saying that cars should not be housed in the center of the park but outside the perimeter, such as at Inspiration Point near the old Navy Hospital.

While all efforts are sincere and well intentioned, there



Proposed bypass bridge shown here with traffic

is some danger that we might, in our haste to meet the 2015 centennial deadline, make some unwise decisions.

"We have buildings in Spain just as beautiful, we have gardens just as fine, but nowhere in my country have I seen such a perfect blending of the two. You have out-Spanned Spain!" Quote from Count Salazar, Consul General of Spain, visiting San Diego in 1911.

— Joan Dahlin, La Jolla Unit Leader

BRIEF HISTORY OF BALBOA PARK (I) DONATIONS / SALES OF PARK LAND

1868 Several lots in the southwest corner of the designated 1400-acre planned park were bought by private interests and not included in the park.

1881 Park land given for building of San Diego High School, including Balboa Stadium.

1892 Thirty acres provided to Kate Sessions for a nursery on condition that she plant 100 trees within the park every year and 300 trees elsewhere in the city.

1917 Citizens voted to cede land to the US Navy for hospital in WWI.

1922 Zoo given 126 acres in a lease. Parking lot covers 27% of lease.

1924 Marstons donated 11.73 acres on northwest border to Balboa Park.

1934 Voters approved tax to support zoo.

1935 California Pacific International Exposition held in Park. Old Globe, Ford Building, Federal Building, etc. remain from that exposition.

1941 Navy took over park during WWII. Park closed to public until 1947. Citizens voted by 8-1 margin to grant 200 foot right-of-way through the park for a state highway, US 395, state route 163.

1952 Florida Canyon landfill started. Closed in 1974. Methane explosion 1981.

1979 Navy expanded Balboa Naval Hospital despite citizens' negative vote (61% yes, needed 66.7%). Took land by eminent domain. Hospital now has 36 +42 acres.

1991 Plan for underground parking for zoo proposed but funding unavailable.

2010 Mayor appointed organizing committee tasked with creating an organizational structure for a conservancy and to serve as the initial core of the board.

2011 Controversial proposal to remove vehicles from Plaza de Panama and build a parking structure under discussion.

(2) MASTER PLANS FOR BALBOA PARK / CULTURAL USES

1903 Samuel Parsons, Jr., a landscape architect from New York, was called by the City Council to design a plan for the park.

1909 Chamber of Commerce persuaded city to host 1915 exposition to celebrate completion of the Panama Canal. Park named Balboa Park and Bertram Goodhue hired to design buildings.

1915 Buildings for 1915 Panama California International Exposition sparked a revival of Spanish Colonial architecture on the west coast.

1917 Plans to demolish the buildings after the exposition were opposed; they were subsequently leased to museums.

1920's-1930's Art Museum, Natural History Museum, Museum of Man, Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park Club established.

1933 New building for Natural His-

tory Museum. Ellen B. Scripps gave \$125,000.

1947 City Council asked for new park master plan. Rejected as too expensive.

1977 Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 conference, chaired by Muriel Goldhammer, former President of LWVSD, with stated purpose to explore issues and discuss how Balboa Park can best serve future generations.

1960's A master plan was submitted and \$2 million was spent on improvement

1970's renovation. Many buildings in Prado area upgraded. Picnic areas expanded.

1989 City Council adopted a master plan. Several groups supported the park including: Friends of Balboa Park, Citizens Coordinate for Century III, Committee of 100, Balboa

Park Trust. Mayor and Council appointed the Balboa Park Committee to advise on park issues.



2007 Morey Group conducted survey of park users. Some dissatisfaction with parking, food availability. User impression of cultural and recreational facilities generally very favorable.

2009 Mayor appointed Balboa Park Task Force to explore establishment of a non-profit foundation to maintain and improve Balboa Park as recommended by the Balboa Park Committee.

— Betsy Stevens, Unit Leader, Scripps Ranch / Rancho Bernardo
Much of this material is taken from *Balboa Park, a Millennium History* by Roger M. Showley, 1999, Media Heritage Corp., Carlsbad, CA

BALBOA PARK: PROPOSED CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

The Balboa Park Master Plan adopted July 25, 1989, suggests the following vision statement for Balboa Park:

“TO NURTURE AND ENHANCE THE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, AND PASSIVE RESOURCES OF THE PARK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE REGION AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY, WHILE RESPECTING ITS PHYSICAL, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT.”

- 1) Should the League adopt the above vision statement as part of our Balboa Park position?
- 2) Should the League adopt a position to preserve, enhance, and increase free and open parkland in Balboa Park?
- 3) Should the League adopt a position encouraging a more pedestrian-oriented environment with a goal of eventually
- 4) Should the League support efforts to develop a public transit system for access to the Park and a comprehensive tram system for moving people within the Park?
- 5) Should the League adopt a position encouraging fiscal decisions regarding the park designed to keep the Park affordable for all residents?
- 6) Should the League support public access to information regarding the operations of the proposed non-profit corporation including open meetings and preparation and distribution of an annual report on corporation actions?



EarthFair 2011
 Sunday, April 17
 Balboa Park
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



This year the **League's booth** will be focusing on the Miramar Landfill issue. What should the city do with it? Should it be privatized? Does it make money for the city and if so, what is that money used for? What are the pros and cons of each decision that is being considered?

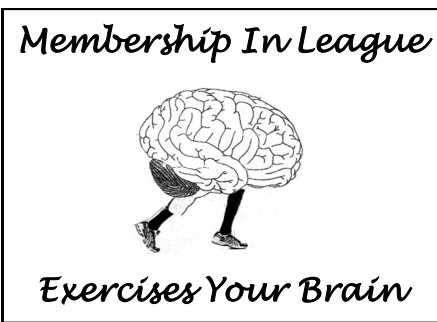
We are planning, with some volunteers from High Tech High, to have "a wheel of fortune" that fair-goers can spin and try to answer questions about the landfill. If they answer correctly, they can take away one of our free drought-tolerant plants in one-inch containers. We will have some students to help us with the booth but we need League members to help explain the League; our goals and issues. If you would like to help for a few hours or part or all day, please let Jill Elsner know at jill@jillelsner.com

GETTING TO EARTH DAY -- FREE SHUTTLES

Jill will try to organize people to drive together. Alternatively, free shuttles (10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m) will run from the SD County Admin Building (1600 Pacific Highway). The shuttle will drop/pick you up at the entrance to the Laurel St. bridge, which leads into Balboa Park. On a Sunday, there is generally no traffic at the County Admin Bldg, and lots of free available metered parking in the north parking lot. There's also parking in the south parking lot, but there is a fee'

Directions: From Pacific Highway heading south, turn right into the north parking lot at the County Admin. Bldg. From Pacific Highway heading north, turn left on W. Ash St., then right on N. Harbor Dr. Turn right into the north parking lot.

Activities: Exhibitors Children's Activity Area, Entertainment on three stages, **eHome Exhibit, eARTH Gallery Food Pavilion Children's Earth Parade**



MEMBERSHIP

Good programming also helps bring in members - the Unit meetings, luncheons, and tour have all been attracting new members. Please welcome

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|-------|
| Gudrun Beck | 92122 (transferred from Monterey Peninsula) | | |
| Amy Hjerstedt | 92104 | Michael McQuary | 92109 |
| Mercy Mandelbaum | 92118 | Catherine Smith | 92101 |

We were saddened to read about the passing of Frank Kleber, who with his wife Evelyn, were actively supportive of League activities several years ago. Frank was a retired naval commander and active in Rotary including serving as president. They moved to Tierrasanta from Illinois in 1984 when he retired. Evelyn and Frank have four sons. She survives him and lives at Fredericka Manor in Chula Vista.

I was asked to meet with a group of high school seniors who are interested in government and the voting process. The mother who ran the meeting showed them the film about the suffragist movement called "Ironed Jawed Angels."

— Beryl Flom, VP/Membership

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Penny Adler, Vice-President, Education

My elementary, middle, and high school years were completed in Palo Alto, California and initial two years of college were taken at the University of California Berkeley. Deciding to enter the nursing profession, I transferred to Stanford University where I completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I then entered the dual masters degree program in medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. This was followed by a year of post-masters work focusing on patients with kidney failure needing either hemodialysis or renal transplantation. Following graduation, I accepted a position at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View as a dialysis nurse and continued on as Head Nurse and Social Worker of the Dialysis Unit. While at UCSF I met my husband, David, who was completing his Doctor of Pharmacy degree where he then joined the faculty. We moved to Menlo Park where we began our family with Michelle and Darrell. In 1975 we moved to San Diego where David became the director of the 4th year UCSF pharmacy student program, a joint program with the UCSD School of Medicine. As the new School of Pharmacy opened at UCSD, he was asked to serve as professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a position he currently holds. I joined Allied Home Health as a home care nurse primarily working with the local dialysis units and seeing patients in their homes. Our third child, Laura, was born at Scripps Hospital in 1977.

My children's school years were completed in the San Diego Unified School District attending magnet schools, all three graduating from the San Diego High School International Baccalaureate Program. All through their SDUSD education experiences I was very involved with their schools, serving on the school site councils and various district committees. I became close friends with their 5th/6th grade teacher and together we authored a book entitled "Check Yourself Into College" for 9th through 12th grade students. All three children continued their education in universities in the East. Michelle attended Brown University, Darrell chose the University of Hartford, and Laura elected Syracuse University. Michelle went on to complete her M.D. degree at UCSD and board certification in Family Practice and Preventive Medicine at Oregon Health Science University. She spent her last three and a half years in Swaziland, Africa, working for Baylor College of Medicine's Pediatric Aids Initiative Project and just returned to the U.S.



joining the Center for Disease Control in Prevention of AIDS Maternal-Child Transmission. It is very nice to have her back on this continent in Atlanta. Our son Darrell remained in Connecticut after graduation with a major in computer science and went to work for a start-up company now called Vertrax which routes fuel oil trucks. He has been with them for 14 years as a projects manager. In October of 2009 he married a wonderful woman from Culican, Mexico. Following our youngest daughter Laura's graduation, she went to work for Americorp in New York City as the volunteer coordinator for the Association to Benefit Children. She later returned to San Diego, completed a program at Grossmont Community College to be a speech and language pathology assistant, and now works with the San Diego Unified School District, primarily with autistic and severely-challenged children at the elementary school level.

I have always been associated with volunteer work with my children and the community. In the mid '90's I was president of the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee where I worked with Faye Rose who introduced me to the League and asked me to join the Education Committee. I became more involved under Ruberta Castro and have coordinated the last three education luncheons. This year I was asked to chair the committee and to join the Board. I also chair the Education Committee for the Barrio Logan College Institute, an afterschool program for students in grades 3-12 that promotes the pursuit of higher education for students who are traditionally under-represented in college. A most rewarding activity is mentoring young women. Currently I mentor four students, two who now attend college, a senior at Preuss and a freshman at High Tech High. I continue to work part time as a nurse assessor for Long Term Care Insurance as a private contractor for LifePlans. For recreation Laura and I take our two Golden Retrievers, Jasmine and Daisy, for daily walks and to doggy/human fitness class on Sunday mornings.

Travel is also a strong interest. Recent visits to Eastern Europe, Southern Africa, Australia, Japan, and Peru have been enlightening. Travel to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands is currently being planned for this summer. I look forward to my continuing work with the League and all of its bright and committed members.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff, and programs.

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\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other _____ Please contact me with more information

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