

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

PAST PRESIDENT BANKER DIES

Past International President Donald E. Banker, who served as the association's 75th president, has passed away. A resident of Rolling Hills, California, he was elected president at the 74th annual international convention held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, in 1991. A life member of the West Torrance Lions Club, Past President Banker visited Lions in 52 countries and geographic locations in 1991-92. A Melvin Jones Fellow, he received a Key Member Award, 12 International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor granted by the association to its members. Under his leadership, the first Lions float was entered in the New Year's Tournament of Roses Parade and continues as an annual tradition.



KELLER, JONES APPEAR IN ARIZONA

A club in Arizona recently hosted two distinguished guests: Helen Keller and Melvin Jones. No, it wasn't a séance. Barbara Dienes and Jim Heig of the Sun City West Sunrise Lions entertained their club in a 30-minute skit and hope to take their

impersonation show on the road. "A lot of people don't know the story of the Lions and we can help recruit new members," said Dienes, who recruited Heig as Jones (the Arizona native who founded Lions Clubs) because "he looked the most like him." Already, a local association for the blind has asked the two to perform. A Lion since 1994, Dienes writes historical scripts and impersonates figures such as Martha Washington. Heig first joined the Lions in 1960 and later rejoined in 1968.



Helen Keller and Melvin Jones, aka Barbara Dienes and Jim Heig

WANGARI NAMED HUMANITARIAN

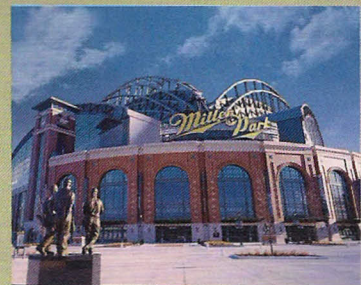
Noble Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai of Kenya will receive the 2010 Lions Humanitarian Award. Maathai is the founder of the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots group that reduces poverty and protects the environment. In 2004, she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Maathai's en-

vironmental efforts have resulted in women planting 40 million trees on community lands since 1977. She was instrumental in peacefully restoring democracy to Kenya in 2002 and then served in the Kenya parliament from 2002-2007. She will accept her award at the International Convention in Sydney.



USA/CANADA FORUM SET FOR SEPTEMBER

Reduced registration fees are still available until June 15 for the 34th annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. The forum is Sept. 23-25 in Milwaukee. The forum features 2010-11 International President Sid Scruggs III, other inspirational speakers and more than 70 seminars. The registration form, Forum newsletter, seminar list, information on tours and other material can be found at www.usacanadalionsforum.org.



WDK 2013