CURRENT EXHIBIT

100 YEARS OF ARTIST IN THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY

Artists are often portrayed as individuals existing in an isolated world, painting for themselves and the public, their feelings, their conceptions, their interpretations of the world around them. Exhibits are mounted, and critics comment on the aesthetic merits of their work and contributions to the art world. This exhibit takes a different road. It is an attempt to present artists as citizens of a community and the nature of that community in which they lived. It is limited to Berkeley and is only a representative view, overlooking many of the artists who have lived and worked among us.

NEXT EXHIBIT --- BERKELEY THEN and NOW

The program committee is planning an exhibit to celebrate the turn of the century. We will draw from our collections of historic photographs and pair them with a photo taken from the same location to show changes in our city over the last 100 years. We hope to represent every part of the city and would like a member from each section of the city to serve on the exhibit committee. Be the first to volunteer from your neighborhood. Call 848-0181.

We are publishing another favorite from the Stein collection of photos. You might call it TAKING THE TRAIN TO THE GOURMET GHETTO or Shattuck and Vine, ca 1940. A reminder, contributions to our endowment fund go to the maintenance and protection of our archives.

B. H. S. CALENDAR

June 13 - Walking tour/picnic - North Berkeley Community Gardens
June 14 - Board of Directors Meeting
July 12 - Board of Directors Meeting
Aug. 2 - Friends of Five Creeks (see below)
Aug. 9 - Board of Directors Meeting
Sept. 25 - Exhibit 100 Years of Artists in the Community closes.

SALMON IN STRAWBERRY CREEK?

We have received the following announcement from Susan Schwartz, BHS member and Co-President of Friends of Five Creeks:

What was the East Bay like 150 years ago? Robin Grossinger of San Francisco Estuary Institute, has been researching natural conditions along the Bay before European settlement. He will show early maps and documents and talk about his findings at the Friends of Five Creeks meeting 7:30 pm Monday, August 2, at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin.

Robin also wants to listen -- please come if you have information on early vegetation, historic fish populations, etc. For more information call 848-9358 or 412-7257, or e-mail F5creeks@aol.com.

SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline August 15, 1999

This Spring issue contains three articles submitted by our members. Why not submit your bit of Berkeley History for our Summer Issue. A personal memoir about past days in Berkeley would be great--500 to 1500 words in length.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to the Membership

I would like to introduce the new Board of Directors for the Berkeley Historical Society for 1999-2000. I am Linda Rosen, your president. The first vice president is Peter Montgomery, who has had experience with publishing and web sites. The second vice president is Ken Duffy, who runs the historical society's excellent web site. The President Emeritus is Ken Cardwell, Maybeck scholar, exhibit developer, and all-around organizer. The treasurer is Phil Gale, a long-term member of the Board and a specialist on Berkeley transportation systems. The secretary and archives chair is Lauren Lasseben, who is an archivist for the Bancroft Library. Karen Hata, our membership secretary, is a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle.

Other members of our Board of Directors are as follows: Lynne Cutler, film specialist and archivist-librarian for the Oakland Public Library, will chair our program committee. Tom Edwards, leader with the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, will help with the walking tours. Steven Finacon, our research chair, has led walking tours and written several publications on the University of California history. Ann Marks is our conservator and specializes in the Vietnam War era. Therese Pipe, our oral history chair, has done an extensive series on the Berkeley Co-op as well as work for the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Club. Allen Stross, master photographer, who has created many of our postcards along with his wife, Hyshka, will work with programs and publications. Thomas Young, teacher, will be rejoining the board in July and will help with our research committee.

I have been a long-term member of the Board of Directors. I was oral history chair for five years and worked with Therese Pipe. I graduated in English in 1966 from the U.C. Berkeley and received my teaching credential there in 1967. My husband, Stephen Rosen, and I loved the Berkeley community and decided to stay here where we raised our two daughters. I was a teacher in the Berkeley Public Schools for twenty-two years, working closely with young children and their families. When I retired in 1996, I rejoined the Board. For the past year, I have served as the first vice-president and have gained experience with organizing programs, mounting exhibits, and doing research.

The upcoming year will be a busy year for the historical society. We will have a house tour, walking tours, and a special program in the fall and are working on publishing new books. Our next exhibit will be Berkeley Then and Now. We will be organizing our archive and expanding our committees and the oral history program. We are reaching out to you for membership and community involvement because your help is necessary to accomplish our mission of preserving and communicating the history of Berkeley. What a city we live in! Please contact us at 848-0181.

Linda Rosen

ORAL HISTORY NEWS - Therese Pipe

The Berkeley Historical Society will be working with BAHA's Lynne Davis to expand a list of potential oral history interviewees. We will be working with Gail Kurtz and with Jacqueline Renier of Vista College to facilitate some of these interviews. Send your suggestions to the Berkeley Historical Society at 848-0181 or e-mail to linda@transbay.net. You may also contact Lynne at BAHA with your ideas.

Please consider taking a class in oral history. Gail Kurtz's scheduled May class was cancelled, but she will be giving another in June. Come join the effort! Call Gail at (510) 525-7050. The Vista College number is 841-9431.

Linda Rosen, President, BHS
Therese Pipe, Chair, Oral History

Ishi in the Elmwood

Helen Waterman, daughter of Professor Thomas T. Waterman (1886-1936), was in Berkeley recently to visit her childhood home at 2804 Cherry Street near College Avenue. Prof. Waterman, with a box of Indian vocabulary cards, had accompanied Prof. Lowe to Oroville when Ishi was found there in 1912. Ishi spent the Summer of 1915 at 2804 Cherry Street. Thanks to the present owners of the house, Helen Waterman was able to see the small sleeping porch room where Ishi stayed. According to her mother, Ishi was the perfect house guest, meticulous in the care of all his personal belongings. The family photo album, with many unpublished photos of Ishi in the Elmwood, was graciously copied for Burl Willes and will be included in a history of the neighborhood to be published by the Berkeley Historical Society later this year.
BERKELEY HISTORY WALKING TOURS
Tours of the fall season will be on Sunday mornings, 10 a.m., and will take place rain or shine. Starting points will be convenient to public transportation.

Donation for each tour is $5 for BHS members, $10 general public. Season tickets are offered, to members only, at a discount rate of $16 for four tours. Tours are limited to 25 people; prepaid reservations have priority. Send checks for reservations to BHS at P.O.Box 1190, Berkeley, CA 94701. Please meet promptly at the given locations.

For each tour we use one or two volunteers to help with logistics. Volunteers receive free admission - call BHS to sign up as soon as possible. You can help in the planning, or you can plan and lead your own tour.

Spring season tours have been completed with the exception of a special Tour/Picnic. See the announcement below.

SPECIAL WALKING TOUR/PICNIC - JUNE 13

We will join Karl Linn to tour three community gardens in North Berkeley. Karl will share his knowledge of the self-help construction process of three unique community gardens which have nurtured the growth of friendship and community among participants and neighbors.

The tour will end with a picnic in one of the gardens, only you have to furnish your own sandwich; BHS will furnish the drinks and a dessert. Meet at Hopkins and Peralta, the Karl Linn Community Garden at 10:00 a.m.

LEONORE HERRMANN GINNO, DDS
Berkeley's First Woman Dentist by John Gino Aronovici

Dr. Leonore Gino started life in San Francisco with a bang. In 1878, Leonore was born prematurely. Her twin sister and mother died in the childbirth. She was placed in a cigar box, with a kerosene lantern as an incubator.

Her father, William Herrmann, and his parents had immigrated to New York in the 1850's when he was nine. When he was twelve, his parents both died. By himself, he took a ship to the Isthmus of Panama, rode a donkey across to the Pacific, and sailed on another ship to San Francisco. Later he became a confectioner & married.

William's daughter, Leonore, attended Lowell High School. She entered the University of California Dental School, and in 1899, became the first woman graduate. She married John Gino, a graduate of the class of 1900, and they opened a dental office in Union Square. The Earthquake and Fire of 1906 destroyed their building, and they moved to Berkeley. They found space for their practice near the end of the steam train line on Shattuck Avenue. Their office was in the newly opened Louis Stein building at Walnut and Vine, above what is now Peet's Coffee.

In 1909, the Ginno's built a beautiful three story wood frame house at 1151 Oxford Street for $5,000. They had three children: Eleanor Ginno, a popular Berkeley teacher and school counselor; Elizabeth Ginno Winkler, artist; and a son, John. In 1912, Dr. John Ginno died. Later that year their son, John, and the mayor's son died of smallpox. Then, there was no universal vaccination.

Dr. Ginno continued her dental work as her two children grew up. She and her daughter, Elizabeth, raised short haired St. Bernard dogs. They showed them around the state winning many trophies. Dr. Ginno in the 1920's helped secure money from Phoebe Hearst to start a public dental clinic for children. Several generations of Berkeleyans remember her.

In 1934 the Depression came. Dr. Ginno lost her investments and lost her house to the bank because she owed $600. It was bought by Berkeley plumber Mr. Jeavons. In the 1990's, the property went on the market for $650,000 and sold again. It is now a bed and breakfast house.

In later years, Leonore lived with her daughter Eleanor. She was active in the Berkeley Garden Club and other social groups. Dr. Ginno was a pioneer woman, ahead of her time, and is remembered by many in Berkeley.
Berkeley Woods and Park Hills
by Paul Grunland

Since incorporation as a city in 1878 Berkeley has incrementally expanded its borders, generally in a northerly direction. Two areas called Berkeley Woods and Park Hills were added to the city as late as 1959 thus concluding an eighty-year expansion period which has resulted in the Berkeley boundaries as we know them today. This is the story of the two areas and how they became a part of Berkeley.

Research is needed to discover the earliest origins of the Berkeley Woods name. The Map Department at U.C. Berkeley has a map entitled “North Cragmont and Berkeley Woods,” Harold Havens Co. Inc., Subdividers, compiled and brought up to date (1/12/27) from various maps and data. The map covers the area from Summit Reservoir southeast to Creston Road and east to Wildcat Canyon Road (then called Spruce St.). The county line is not shown, but it ran along the back lot lines of Grizzly Peak to Rosemont, then along back lot lines of Creston Road to Shasta Road and beyond. This county line was established in 1853 when Alameda county was carved out of Contra Costa county.

The EBMUD Summit Reservoir is at the northwest end of the Berkeley Woods area, at 819 feet elevation. The Alameda Water Company first located a reservoir here in 1891 using a supply of water from Wildcat Creek and other local water. EBMUD was the successor supplier with Mokelumne River water; the reservoir was rebuilt in 1940 with WPA labor. In 1998 the structure was strengthened and adjacent lands re-landscaped. Of note are the drinking facilities for canines and sculpture of birds in simulated flight. The county line zigzags through the reservoir. Here are the headwaters of Cerrito Creek that forms the boundary between Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Across the street from Summit Reservoir is the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church built in 1950. Here once stood a lumber mill for sawing the large stands of eucalyptus trees that dominated the Berkeley ridge. The late Louis Stein once proposed to place a drugstore here, but the neighborhood residents objected.

In the Mexican period three great ranchos had common boundaries at the Summit Reservoir saddle. These were the Rancho San Antonio, Rancho San Pablo and Rancho El Sobrante. Here is also the terminus of Wildcat Canyon Road. This road began in the 1870’s as the Wagner Road, a dirt trail over which wagons could go to avoid more dangerous and difficult roads to Oakland and which was used for driving cattle to this point and thence down Spruce St. to market.

The heart of Berkeley Woods is Woodmont Avenue. It is paralleled by Creston Road and Vistamont Avenue. The north end of Woodmont terminates at Wildcat Canyon Road, the south, at Sunset Lane. Earliest houses here date from 1930. The street, rutted and dusty in the 30’s, caused the neighbors to pay for its paving themselves.

The corner of Vistamont Avenue and Woodmont marks the beginning of the old Carbone Orchid Nursery. The nursery moved here in 1929 from 5th Street in Berkeley. It occupied space bordered by Woodmont, Vistamont, and Rosemont Avenues and its gardeners were housed in a building on the Vistamont corner. The Carbone home, since sold to other owners, stands at 671 Woodmont. After John Carbone died his family operated the nursery until changing market conditions in the 60’s forced them to sell the property to a developer. The building of homes followed rapidly. Woodmont Court was developed with one lot saved for a community swimming pool. Sidewalks surround the Carbone subdivision; these were required of the developer by the City of Berkeley. Elsewhere in Berkeley Woods and Park Hills they are absent, as are street lights.

570 Woodmont is a Bernard Maybeck house built in 1937 as a "country house" for Isaac Flagg, U.C. Professor of Greek. Woodmont Ave. in its early days was a rural retreat for many University of California academics. Great vistas were seen from their homes before all the lots were developed. Later, growth of

![EBMUD Summit Reservoir seen from Spruce St. near Grizzly Peak Blvd.](image-url)
Flagg Cottage, Bernard Maybeck, Architect
570 Woodmont Avenue

landscaping vegetation blocked the views.

At the southeast side of Rosemont and Woodmont, a Monterey pine forest that had been planted in the 20's, stood until 1960. The first house built in this area is number 605. This house was made in England and shipped to San Francisco for the Pan-Pacific International Exhibition of 1915. At the close of the Fair, it was cut in half, floated by barge to Berkeley, brought to the hill by mule-drawn wagon, and additions made. At one time it was owned by the Episcopal Church. In recent years it had been owned by the Fogarty family of Credence Clearwater note. It sold in 1998.

Across the street at number 600 is a house built by Professor Scheer, Chairman of the Agricultural Department at U.C. Numbers 620 and 630 were built by Professor Durham, Chairman of the Physiology Department at U.C. He married a Goodrich tire heiress and had a butler. Number 615 was owned by the Horner family, with a small swimming pool at the south end that was later filled in. The house sold in 1999 for $1,200,000.

At 633 Woodmont is the Sidney B. Mitchell (original owner) house and gardens. Mr. Mitchell was Chairman of the U.C. School of Librarianship in 1927. He retired in 1946 to tend to his extensive garden and to write books about gardening. He was a founder of the California Horticultural Society. Three lots now occupy his property. A quote from one of his books conveys some feeling of the rural character of this street in the 1920's. "...When we first built here only one house was visible to the north of us and even now (1947) it is a rather rural area as the Salbach Gardens adjoin us on the south and the canyon and the mountains which form our view are part of the Regional Park and kept in a natural state."

Behind the house at number 636 are three lots, currently for sale, which constitute a de facto private park and open space. A large grove of mixed conifer trees covers the lots. Adjoining neighbors hope to devise a plan to acquire the property and maintain it as open space.

647 and 651 Woodmont were once part of the Salbach Gardens. Number 657 is the original home of Carl Salbach. He was a friend of John Carbone. Salbach grew iris and other plants here on 10 acres. He had four lots and some land on the west side of the street. Plants were grown all the way to Wildcat Canyon Road. When Mr. Salbach's son was killed while away on a business trip the business was discontinued and pieces of the property sold.

Numbers 660-664-666 Woodmont were designed by Architect Roger Lee. Mr. Salbach had sold this property with the intent for the new owner to build only one home on the site where he had grown dahlias.

In the 700 block Vistamont comes to a dead end. A pedestrian path can be followed to reach the northern end of the southern section of Vistamont. In 1998 there was a mountain lion sighting in this area.

(Continued - - The next issue will tell of the PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY and PARK HILLS)

Sidney B. Mitchell Residence and view of Wildcat Canyon

A REMINDER

Don't forget to reserve a place for Karl Linn's tour of the Community Gardens. It's a Wimpy Picnic. You bring your sandwich, and BHS will furnish drinks and dessert.
CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF NUT HILL

by Deborah Whitney

My earliest memories are of the hill north of the Berkeley campus where I grew up. Although it is much as it was seventy years ago, with houses built before the Fire of '23 or soon after, it was then adjacent to real country. On one flank a steep trail led down to a rain pond in a quarry where kids skinny dipped or rafted on home-made contraptions. It has long been filled and become Rose-La Loma Park containing a baseball field and playground. Nice but tame compared with the quarry! Across the street from our house at La Loma and La Vereda a eucalyptus grove covering several city lots seemed like a fairy-tale forest. At a stable further along La Vereda we took riding lessons and met our first real cowboy.

Our hill was, and still is known as 'Nut Hill,' referring to its supposedly eccentric inhabitants. My father, Edward Tolman, a professor of behavioral psychology at Cal, did experiments in learning on rats and monkeys, sometimes in a special room in our house called the "Rat Room." Two of the monkeys who lived in the old green Psych Building near Euclid and Hearst were called Cupid and Psyche, for whom I assumed the gods were named. My father was kind and fun-loving with a wonderful sense of the ridiculous. He was much in demand for his 'scarf dance,' a hilarious performance in an impeccably tailored suit in which he leapt about waving a multicolored scarf. He would kick his long legs heavenward or shrink down into a tiny flower-like creature.

My mother, Kathleen Tolman, was an English teacher and an intellectual. Although reserved, she also had a good sense of humor and wrote delightful songs for us children. In 1950 my father became leader of the non-signers of the special loyalty oath imposed on all university staff by the regents. He and several others were fired but eventually vindicated by reinstatement with back pay.

Other 'nuts' were also distinguished people. Bernard

The Tolman Family ca. 1928

Maybeck, the famous architect who designed several houses on the hill, lived with his family around the corner on Buena Vista Way. His compound of small buildings of a soft pinkish hue, covered with gunny sacks dipped in cement, were experiments in using cheap ready available fire-proof materials. Across the street from us lived Andrew Lawson, an eminent geologist and amateur poet, in another Maybeck house. Built of concrete with a stucco finish instead of the usual brown shingles, it survived the Fire. It looks much the same today with its soft pastel colored walls, balconies, and large gardens.

Later the Lawsons' house was rented for many years to the Lilly family who had two daughters. My sister and brother and I spent much time there with other neighborhood children playing Stealing Steps, Prisoners' Base, Kick the Can, and rolling down their steep lippia bank.

Stephen Pepper, a philosophy professor specializing in aesthetics, lived on Buena Vista Way. His house was a gathering place for games and dancing parties as we grew up. Further up the hill the Boytonts built the Greek style Temple of Wings, and lived partly in the open air. Florence Boynton was a friend of Isadora Duncan's, and together they developed a new dance form. Mrs. Boynton was a large imposing woman, often wearing Greek robes. She wrote patriotic songs and poems and became known for teaching creative dancing in the temple as did her daughter, Sulwyn Quitzow. I remember garbage can-sized containers of fruits and nuts standing around from which we children were allowed to help ourselves at any time of day. We loved visiting the Boytonts except when their older sons teased us with snakes and mice.

Higher up lived Jaime de Angulo, a handsome Spaniard. A student of California Indians, he learned their languages and wrote and illustrated a charming book of Indian tales. He also taught anthropology and Jungian psychology at Cal, though he had no degree in either subject. His home was a center for scholars and reportedly for wild orgies too. His

Margaret Prall's 8th grade class, c. 1927

Page 6
daughter, Gui, recently returned to live in the family home and wrote Jaime in Taos, a collection of her father's letters and papers.

Soon after the Fire, Sam Hume, a producer of plays and a dealer in rare books, and his wife, Portia Bell Hume, a psychoanalyst, built a medieval castle with turrets and towers above the de Angulo house. It can be seen from far below and has been the location for many parties and fund raisers over the years, both before and after the Humes lived there.

The inhabitants of 'Nut Hill' were a diverse group of individuals. Besides those I've mentioned there were many others: Bill Donald Sr., popular Cal doctor; Max Radin, eminent law professor beloved by the neighborhood children; Herbert Bolton, professor of Latin American history; Farnham Griffiths, lawyer and regent of U.C.; Dr. Katherine Bishop, anaesthesiologist at Alta Bates; Prof. Etcheverry of Engineering; and Alexander Meiklejohn, civil libertarian. There was David Prall, professor of philosophy, and his sister, Margaret, a violinist, from whom we took solfege or violin lessons in her tiny studio under the huge weeping willow at the corner of La Loma and Buena Vista.

These men and their families lived there all during my childhood, and I was welcome in their homes. This gave our neighborhood a wonderful feeling of community, increasingly rare today.

1868: Johan (John) Spenger emigrates from Bavaria to Oakland and begins his fishing business, supplying markets in San Francisco and the East Bay with shrimp, oysters, mussels, clams, crab, sea bass, salmon and many other types of fish.

1870s-1880s: John builds his first home on Second Street in Berkeley (which had less than 500 residents). He builds his next home a few years later at 1919 Fourth Street - using the second floor for his wife and four children, and the ground floor for his business enterprises. (The original building still exists: over the last century, the Spengers have always had a home on the top floor.)

1894: John and his wife open a country store and bait shop beneath their home and supply groceries and fishing equipment to their customers.

1900 - 1920s: In 1909, John closes his country store after his wife's death and goes back to fishing with his sons Paul and Frank (the ground floor became storage space for nets and boat equipment). In the 1920s, the sons also operated a seafood restaurant from the ferryboat Encinal, first in San Rafael and later in Benicia. (Part of the teak in the restaurant's floors and walls comes from the decks of the ship, which was dismantled in the 1930s.)

1930s: In 1932, the State of California bans all commercial fishing (except shrimping) in the Bay, nearly devastating the Spengers' business. Frank and his wife Marcella begin cooking casually for their friends and business associates. The idea catches on instantly, and in 1934 they open Spenger's Fish Grotto, a restaurant and bar. The Grotto quickly becomes one of the most popular places in the Bay Area. Customers queue up for an hour or more to feast on clam chowder, baked beans, a variety of fish dishes and a 10 cent beer.

1940 - 1998: The restaurant increases its business daily and is the haunt of a wide variety of patrons - dock workers, fishermen, university students, politicians, and both local and international celebrities. Regulars include Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Charles Laughton, Errol Flynn, Harry James and Betty Grable, Olivia de Havilland, Spencer Tracy, Phil Harris and Alice Faye, Ernest Hemingway and Melvin Belli.

In 1950, Frank incorporates the restaurant and makes his son, Bud (Frank Jr.), his general manager. In 1955, they add a 350-seat banquet hall to take care of their huge business. . . . By the late 1990s, with 150 employees and a declining business, Bud Spenger, now 82, is losing money on the huge restaurant and decides he must close. In September 1998, Spenger's serves its last meals to thousands of loyal fans and closes for good - until a new owner can be found. - Lee Houskeeper

Historic Spenger's will reopen in late summer as Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

In a press release, McCormick & Schmick's, the Portland restaurant management group which owns 22 fine seafood restaurants, states "We intend to preserve its [Spenger's] classic atmosphere, and provide the freshest seafood and finest service - to maintain and enhance Spenger's valuable reputation, and make it a world class operation." The press release also contains an interesting time line that begins at the top of the next column:
If the date on your address label is 5/31/99, or earlier your membership has expired. Please renew. We appreciate your support. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

Yes, I want to renew my membership in the Berkeley Historical Society

  ___ $15.00 Individual
  ___ $20.00 Family
  ___ $50.00 Contributor

  ___ $100.00 Business
  ___ $100.00 Sponsor
  ___ $500.00 Life Membership

Name____________________________________(H Phone)____________________
Address_________________________________ (W Phone)____________________
City_____________________________________State_____Zip________(E-mail)________

We need HELP filing our archives, editing the newsletter, preparing exhibits, organizing programs, cataloguing photographs, and staffing the History Center. Would you like to volunteer two or three hours a month to work with other members of the Society? Give us a call at 848-0181 or drop us a note.

Yes, I would like to HELP with
________________________________________________________________________
Name________________________________________Phone._________________________