J. Stitt Wilson,
Berkeley’s Socialist Mayor
By Stephen Barton

Between March 19, 1868, when he was born in Auburn, Ontario, and August 28, 1942, when he died at his home in Berkeley, California, Jackson Stitt Wilson lived a full and interesting life. He left Canada to go to school at Northwestern University in Chicago, where he entered the Methodist ministry at the age of twenty and served as pastor of a church in a poor working class neighborhood. Many years later he described some of his experiences to explain how he had come to support the labor movement:

“I have buried children who did not have enough rags to cover them in their coffins. I have slept with men to keep them from committing suicide. I have seen the great armies of the unemployed live worse than animals, hungry in the streets, when the masters of business could no longer profit from their labors.”

In 1897 he left the ministry and, with his brother Ben (Benjamin Franklin Wilson) and a number of other like-minded ministers, founded an organization called The Social Crusade to preach socialism as the means to realize the vision of a truly Christian society. He traveled throughout the Midwest and the West and decided to move to California. He and his family left Chicago, took up residence in Berkeley in 1901, and bought a house at 1745 Highland Place.

He traveled often to England and Wales for the Social Crusade, living there for most of the period from 1906 to 1909. On his return to the U.S., the California branch of the Socialist Party of America chose him as the candidate for Governor in 1910.

A dynamic speaker, he gained a great deal of publicity as he traveled around the state in a bright red automobile; he drew 12% of the votes, the best statewide showing ever by a Socialist candidate. The next year Berkeley’s chapter of the Socialist Party asked him to run for mayor. He was elected on April 1, 1911, along with one of the Socialist candidates for city council, John A. Wilson (no relation), who had the Indian motorcycle franchise in Berkeley.

When he was elected mayor on April 1, 1911, J. Stitt Wilson was both a socialist and a proponent of tax reform based on Henry George’s idea of a “single tax” on land value. (The majority of the value of most real estate in the central Bay Area is not in the buildings, but in the land or location, which is why property here is so much more expensive than in most other parts of the U.S.)

Wilson believed that the city and its residents collectively created great wealth—wealth that should be used for the public good rather than going to enrich individuals. As a socialist, he proposed that Berkeley establish municipal utilities to replace the private companies that provided the city with water, electricity, and telephone service, and he supported worker and consumer cooperatives.

As a proponent of the economic analysis of Henry George, Wilson argued that

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President's Message

A message to the membership at the beginning of one’s term can be a dicey thing because there’s a lot of temptation to make grand predictions or promises. So I’ll stay away from that.

Instead, I’d like to call your attention to the volunteers who make your Society work. BHS has never had a paid employee, other than custodial help, and it’s the volunteers who make everything happen.

Volunteers produce our thoughtful exhibits. If you haven’t seen our Berkeley Co-op exhibit, go this month. It closes in early September, to be replaced by another all volunteer exhibit on the centennial of women winning the vote in California.

Volunteers undertake oral histories. Therese Pipe, our splendid Oral History chair, has retired after years of dedicated work for the Society. Her efforts have been renewed by two new and equally energetic co-chairs, Tonya Staros and Jeanine Castello-Lin, who have a bundle of new plans and projects to try out.

Volunteers arrange, staff, and lead our walking tours. The Walking Tours Committee, under the leadership of Buzz Cardoza, is planning a great series of fall walks, some of them built around the theme of early Berkeley women’s organizations and facilities, to coincide with the suffrage centennial.

Volunteers work literally behind the scenes, organizing, expanding, and maintaining our collections, led by Bill Roberts, the retired University Archivist who willingly took up the all-volunteer job of running our Archives.

Volunteers produce our publications, including this newsletter, and run our website, which has been revived in a new format by Board member John Hammond.

And, equally important, a corps of volunteers keep the History Center open three days a week, answer a myriad of questions, and handle dozens of important monthly details. They are all essential, but I particularly want to note the dedication of John Aronovici who is at the Center almost every day, doing everything from painting exhibit backdrops to checking phone messages.

No volunteer lasts forever or can do everything that’s needed, however. BHS can always use more hands and heads to help—with research, with our daily logistics, with staffing the Center, or with pursuing a special project or activity that everyone agrees should be done, but no one has the time to take up.

A good opportunity to meet some of the BHS volunteers and find out more about what you can do to help is at the Solano Stroll. This year it’s on Sunday, September 11, and BHS volunteers will be at the usual place—south side of the street, just uphill from the corner of Ensenada—selling books and postcards, and talking about our programs, displays, and our favorite subject, Berkeley history.

Drop by and say hello and—if you have time to volunteer—find out what you can do to help out.

Steven Finacom

President, 2011-12
the burden of taxation should be shifted from buildings and personal property to the “unearned increment” in land values. While Henry George was opposed to socialism, Wilson found the two ideas compatible. In a speech to the League of California Municipalities on October 25, 1911, he explained:

“As the community grows, site values and land values increase. This increase in site values is not made by the industry, skill, labor or forethought of any individual. It is an increase in value arising out of the association or coming together of men. It is an outgrowth of his life as a public or social or communal being in competition or association with his fellows…”

“The wealth the individual creates should go to the individual. The values which are created by the social body by its very sociality should go to the social body. That social body is as much a reality as the individual person. It is the city or the state. And the city or the state has great public needs which must be supplied. If we should personify the city or state we would say that this Social Mother, in whose household we all live, needs streets and sewers for us all; schools for all our children; peace officers and fire fighters; and social administrators of all these affairs. She, the city, provides or ought to provide social necessities, public utilities, communal enjoyment and civic equipment for all the people. And to do these things she must have money. She must have her own purse. That purse must fill and refill from her own earnings. She is well able to take care of herself. She has no need to be a pauper, or a beggar, or a thief. The social body, the city or state, should pay its own bills out of that wealth which it has itself socially created. Let the values she herself socially creates fall into her own treasury, and from this, her own treasure, let her pay her own bills. … The city or state should be a queen in her own domain, living on her own legitimate earnings … taxation on land values.”

J. Stitt Wilson and others gained the support of the League of California Municipalities for a change in the State constitution to allow local governments to institute land value taxation. Instead of the general property tax, they proposed a tax on the increase in the value of real estate. This would allow local governments to choose how they would tax property, in contrast to the state income tax which required them to follow state policy. Wilson went on to explain that the social mother, the city or state, should be able to create her own wealth and use it to finance various public services. He called for a change in the State constitution that would allow local governments to institute a tax on land values.

Wilson had electoral and political disappointments in November 1912. He ran for Congress, but failed to unseat the conservative Republican Congressman Joseph Knowland (later owner of the Oakland Tribune) and did not carry Berkeley, although his 40% of the vote was extraordinary for a Socialist Party candidate. He chaired a statewide initiative campaign to amend the California constitution to allow local governments to institute land value taxation, but this was also defeated in November. Wilson makes it clear, though, that he believed the socialist movement would continue to gain in strength. His newspaper coverage in the Berkeley Daily Gazette was largely favorable, and he stated his belief that he would be re-elected if he ran.

It is easy today, when there is no significant socialist or labor party in the U.S., to accept his expression of the futility of serving as one member of city council where the majority opposed his ideas. But, after he was elected outright on the April 1, 1911, primary election, the subsequent April 22 run-off for positions resulted in the election of another socialist, John A. Wilson (no relation) and an independent, E.B. Turner, who pledged to support Mayor Wilson’s program.

In the wake of the run-off, Wilson said that he had support of a majority of the council. Apparently the relationship with the independent Turner soured over the next year, but why would Stitt Wilson believe that the socialists could not gain an outright majority on the council in the 1913 elections? In 1912 the Socialist Party reached its peak of public support, and voters elected hundreds of Socialist Party members to city councils and state legislatures. In 1913 his fellow socialist city council member John A. Wilson had two years remaining on his four-year term, so Wilson’s own re-election plus one additional socialist council member would have given him a clear majority.

Wilson’s efforts to bring about public ownership of utilities and tax reform through land value taxation were mostly provided by private for-profit companies, so that localities could shift from the general property tax to a tax on land values. He helped organize and served as President of the California League for Home Rule in Taxation, which gathered signatures and placed “Home Rule Taxation” on the state ballot in November 1912, but it was defeated. A subsequent effort in 1914 with a similar ballot measure was also defeated. The issues he raised and the dilemma he faced in trying to govern a city subject to unjust constraints on local government’s powers of taxation remain with us today.

One of the interesting questions about Wilson is why he did not run for re-election as mayor of Berkeley. He left behind his own version of events in a February 1913 “Letter Declining Re-nomination” and a September 1913 article, “The Story of a Socialist Mayor”. Wilson explains his decision not to run for re-election on the grounds that a conservative council majority was blocking his program of public ownership of utilities and tax reform through land value taxation. Instead, he would campaign for socialism statewide and nationally.
According to the article, another Wilson child had previously died of diphtheria, at the age of three, before Melnott was born. The entire family, including his wife and the one of his two daughters who still lived at home, was quarantined for nearly three weeks to prevent the spread of the disease, which at that time had no preventive vaccine or effective treatment. The family was even unable to attend the burial.

On December 18 Wilson returned to his duties as mayor, and then, at the council meeting of December 26, he angrily criticized the council majority for opposing his program. The immediate issue was whether a proposed sewer bond should go to a special election by itself or be accompanied by bond measures for a municipal electric lighting plant and a municipal market, a city-sponsored grocery store and farmers market.

The members of the majority indicated that they too supported a municipal electric plant, but felt that the sewer system proposal was closer to readiness and was too urgent to delay. On February 9, 1913, the Socialist Party’s central committee unanimously nominated Wilson to run again for mayor, but, after delaying his response until February 18, he declined to run again.

J. Stitt Wilson was a man accustomed to drawing hundreds and even thousands to his public speeches on Christianity and socialism. First as a minister and then as an advocate for Christian socialism, he was most at home with sweeping visionary statements. He was proud of having mastered the details of the City of Berkeley’s public administration and of his many small reforms; one such reform was the municipal employment exchange that began operation in March 1913 that, after nearly two years of effort, helped find work for the unemployed. But perhaps with the death of his son, he no longer could muster the patience to immerse himself in details and incremental change.

In oral history interviews conducted at the University of California in 1957, Herbert Coggins, a lifelong socialist and successful businessman who moved to Berkeley in 1911, said of J. Stitt Wilson: “He would have been a great actor. He had dramatic power. He was the best campaigner for the Party that I ever knew, to win over new converts. In a way he was trained for the work. He was a minister. He could sway people and also raise money from them.”

Asked whether he thought Wilson was a good mayor, Coggins replied: “I don’t think of him as a good executive. In the first place, that was not really what interested him. He was interested in speaking and moving people and being before the people. He wasn’t interested in the details. He was not very closely related to business and a mayor’s job was a business job. His interest was promoting socialism.”

It seems likely that a combination of things lead to his decision not to run for re-election: grief over the death of his son; fatigue after running two strenuous and unsuccessful campaigns; impatience with the many details and slow pace of change in municipal government; and the optimistic belief that, by campaigning for his ideals throughout the state and the nation, he could help change the entire country rather than simply help administer one city within the constraints that he regarded as unacceptable.

But in 1915 he changed his mind and unsuccessfully ran for mayor again, on the Socialist Party slate. He left the Party two years later over its opposition to America’s entry into World War I, and he again ran unsuccessfully for mayor as an independent in 1917. What led to this change of mind is unclear. Perhaps he realized that being the mayor of Berkeley had given his ideas greater credibility. Perhaps he realized the need for greater patience in changing American society. Perhaps we’ll never know.

J. Stitt Wilson (1868–1942) and his wife Emma (1870–1960) had five children:

- Gladys Viola Wilson, 1891–1964
- William Gladstone Wilson, 1893–1918
- Violette Rose Wilson, 1895–1964
- Jackson Stitt Wilson Jr., 1902–1903
- Melnott Wilson, 1905–1912

As the children of a celebrity, his offspring grew up in a blaze of publicity. An article in the July 26, 1906, San Francisco Call begins with the headline “Small Boy Beats Out a Threatening Fire”. It continues: “Unusual bravery and presence of mind displayed by Gladstone Wilson, the thirteen year old son of Rev. J. Stitt Wilson saved a thickly settled portion of North Berkeley”. The story is accompanied by a picture of Gladstone and his two sisters, “who are very proud of him”.

Apparently two boys watching a hot air balloon powered by an alcohol lamp saw it come down in a field and start a fire. One ran off, and Gladstone remained and put the fire out, likely saving his own home as well as those in the surrounding neighborhood. What the story fails to say but seems apparent, is that the two boys had made the hot air balloon that caused the fire.

Later Gladstone graduated from Berkeley High School in 1910 and attended U.C. Berkeley, where he starred in college theatrical presentations. An amusing story in the August 22, 1911, San Francisco Call reports “Sophomores Rush Mayor Wilson’s Son: College Freshmen Forced to Drink Milk on Campus”. Evidently the hazing done back then was somewhat less dangerous than the heavy use of alcohol more typical today. Gladys Viola grew up acting and writing plays that she produced in the family home, and at the age of 15, she wrote a play, “The Light of Mithra,” that was produced in a Berkeley theater and written up by The San Francisco Call.

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First, Stitt Wilson was a public figure whose travels were usually accompanied by public speeches that were covered by at least the local college newspaper. Second, much of his career took place during the period prior to 1923 for which copyrights have expired, although there is a frustrating-partial blackout from 1923 until his death in 1942. Third, he has an unusual name, so Web searches are not overburdened by the need to wade through endless false positives.

Searching the Web for material requires care, however. Before moving to Berkeley, J. Stitt Wilson worked as a minister in the “Social Crusade” along with his younger brother Ben F. Wilson. I found references to a movie actor and director named Ben F. Wilson who directed the 10-part silent movie serial \textit{Officer 444}, set in Berkeley and featuring cameo appearances by Berkeley Police Chief August Volmer \textcite{Episodes are available at the Berkeley Police Department and the Berkeley History Center).}

In addition, an on-line film biography reported that Ben F. Wilson, the actor, had also been active in a socialist organization. Had a socialist minister gone into the movies and helped his niece break into the movies? However, it turns out that there were two Benjamin Franklin Wilsons in California, the socialist and Unitarian minister in the Bay Area and the movie star and director in the Los Angeles area.

The first histories of Berkeley pay little attention to J. Stitt Wilson. \textit{Berkeley: The First 75 Years}, written in 1941 as part of the WPA Writers’ Program, fails to mention him in the text, although he is listed as having been interviewed. William Ferrier’s \textit{Berkeley, California: The Story of the Evolution of a Hamlet into a City of Culture and Commerce}, \textcite{He gives him passing mention in a discussion of efforts to create a municipal electric power plant. George A. Pettit’s \textit{Berkeley: The Town and Gown of It} (1973) has a photograph of mayor J. Stitt Wilson and the city council and remarks on the length of his hair.}

After the rise of the “new left” in the late 1960s and the election of leftist candidates to the Berkeley city council in 1971, people searching for similar events in the past began to write about him. The initial material was not particularly accessible—Michael Hanika’s unpublished 1972 master’s thesis in history at Cal State East Bay and a 1974 article in the short-lived \textit{Berkeley Magazine).}

The short essay by James T. Burnett in \textit{Exactly Opposite the Golden Gate} \textcite{James T. Burnett in \textit{Exactly Opposite the Golden Gate} (1984), reprinting an essay originally published in the \textit{Berkeley Gazette} in 1980, finally made the basic information about his election and program widely available.}

Accounts of J. Stitt Wilson, Berkeley’s Socialist mayor, are now standard in histories of Berkeley and appear in Charles Wollenberg’s \textit{Berkeley: A City In History} (2008), Dave Weinstein’s \textcite{As part of the Writers’ Program, writes about the Socialist debate in Berkeley.}

In 1914 Violette Wilson graduated from Berkeley High School, where she co-authored and co-starred in a class play with Thornton Wilder. She had already been the subject of a story in \textit{The Day Book} for January 17, 1912, a Chicago-based tabloid, about a young man convicted of burglary who “Broke His Parole to See Sweetheart, Must Spend Two Years in Reformatory” after being caught on his way to meet Violette. \textit{The San Francisco Call} for April 13, 1912, featured a story and picture of her, and on May 27, 1915 she was again featured in \textit{The Day Book}: in riding and pants protesting against “Man-made laws that women shall dress in heavy impeding skirts.” Most cities of that time had laws against wearing “clothes of the opposite sex”.

Violette dropped out of U.C. Berkeley after eight months, giving an interview to the newspapers in 1916 in which she said, “What is life without freedom? We should all express ourselves” and decrying the way “the vast majority of men, especially business men, want a pretty little plaything for a wife... they are toys—pets!” She went to the East Coast and became a successful stage actress. In December 1916 she married Irving Pichel, an actor and director who was later blacklisted for his political views. In 1920 they moved back to Berkeley, where the Pichels acted and directed plays for several years.

None of the Wilson sons lived a long life. Gladstone went into the air force in World War I and died in a military airplane accident. Jackson died early of diphtheria, a disease for which there was at the time neither vaccine nor cure. Seven-year-old Melnotte also died of diphtheria in 1912, and Emma Wilson also contracted diphtheria at that time, but she recovered.

Wilson passed away at the family home on August 28, 1942, after a short illness. He was 74 years old and died on the second anniversary of the death of his brother, Ben F. Wilson, who had been minister of the First Unitarian Church in San Jose.

Recently, various digitization projects have made it possible to access an enormous amount of historical material on the Web, and more is becoming available every month. Online information on J. Stitt Wilson includes much of his published writings well as the texts of speeches and newspaper and magazine articles that refer to him and his family. Web research is assisted by three fortunate circumstances.
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It Came From Berkeley: How Berkeley Changed the World (2008), and Herny, Rideout, and Wadell’s Berkeley Bohemia: Artists and Visionaries of the Early 20th Century (2008). Each of these adds valuable parts to the story. Weinstein provides a broader view of his political ideas, some of which, such as favoring prohibition of alcoholic beverages and opposing vaccination, proved to be seriously misguided, unlike his support for women’s suffrage, unions, and public ownership of utilities. Berkeley Bohemia also provides a vivid picture of the bohemian milieu with which the Wilson family lived.

A bibliography is available upon request to this article’s author. His email is sebarton@jps.net

Solano Stroll

The Berkeley Historical society will have a booth at the Solano Stroll on Sunday September 11th. Please drop by and view our photo exhibit and check out the selection of items for sale.

Our location is near the corner of Solano and Ensenada.

Fall Walking Tours

The BHS fall walking tours will start October 1st. Some of the tours will be centered on the Women’s Suffrage exhibit including women’s residence locations and organizations. Other new walks will include the Berkeley waterfront.

They will be held on select Saturdays from 10:00 to noon. A flyer with all the details and registration form will be available in August and mailed to BHS members. The information will also be on our web site:

www.berkeleyhistoricalsociety.org.

New Volunteer Docents

Three new Saturday afternoon docents have started volunteering one Saturday a month. They are: Ann Harlow, Mark Voge and Inga Vanek.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER, PHONE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Thank You

$50 Contributing Memberships:
William & Vangie Buell
Tedi Dunn
Richard Finch
Audel & Lynne Davis,
Kuniko Welnin-Wu
Howard & Estelle Bern
Richard Otter
Stephen & Barbara Barton
Phillip & Wilda Darnall
Jeremy Knight

$100 Sponsor Memberships:
Susan Flagg & Carlo Rocca
Mark & Beth Voge
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Gary McDole

Cash Donations:
Alice Bishop $20,
Ann Tussing $25.
Trish Hawthorne $10,
Robert Frassetto $10,
Nina Meyer,$25
Mary Cardwell $100,

Long Time Volunteers Honored
At Exhibit Openings

The Board of Directors honored three long time volunteers at a recent exhibit opening. They are: Therese Pipe, retiring Oral History Chairperson, Allen Stross, photographer, and John Aronovici, a coordinator.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas for future history walks and newsletter articles.
Memories of David Park
By Burl Willes

Richard Diebenkorn called him “an extraordinary man.” His two daughters worshiped him. His wife’s faith in his art and her sacrifices gave him time to paint.

David Park (1911-1960) captured Berkeley life in the 1950s in his figurative paintings that now hang in museums and private collections around the world.

On the April 2 BHS history walk, Buzz Cardoza recalled the years he delivered the Berkeley Daily Gazette to Lydia and David Park. Cardoza walked up the steep driveway on Santa Barbara Road once a month to collect $1.00 for the paper. “There was abstract art everywhere inside the house. The front door would not close as the house was sliding down the hill.”

Cardoza explained that after a severe rainstorm, the big living room window shattered and the Parks quickly moved to a one-bedroom apartment on Piedmont Avenue in the Elmwood, within walking distance of Richard Diebenkorn and Elmer Bischoff. Park, Bischoff, and Diebenkorn were so poor they could not afford a nude model. Instead, according to a friend of the model, they gave her four drawings.

At 2527 Piedmont Avenue, David Park returned to figurative painting (the abstract paintings that Cardoza saw were by this time lying in the bay front landfill where Lydia and David had abandoned them). The second floor dining room was now his painting studio by day, dining room by night. Lydia Park worked at the UC Berkeley library. The art studio would reappear as the dining room before she arrived home.

Daughter Nancy Park Bigelow, now living on Maui, confirmed this struggle to paint and survive in her touching memoir David Park, Nothing Left Behind (Hudson Hill Press, 2009). In the last years of his life, he was a much-loved and appreciated art teacher at UC Berkeley. He never verbalized criticism, but if he saw something that needed improvement, he would sketch the problem and hand it quietly to the student.

On April 2, 2011, in the back garden at 2527 Piedmont Avenue, Barbara Witt (a member of the walking tour) recalled the pleasure of being a student of David Park’s in 1959. “He would begin the class with a poem. Wallace Stegner was a favorite. Then he would play music.” For a few minutes in time, Barbara Witt touchingly recalled the memory of this extraordinary man.

We have redesigned our website and moved it to a new location. Check it out at:

\www.berkeleyhistoricalsociety.org

Votes for Women buttons available for sale

The next BHS exhibit opening in September will examine and honor the local aspects of the successful struggle 100 years ago to win the vote for women in California.

Back then, equality minded Berkeley women – matrons, shop girls, and co-eds alike – proudly wore blue and gold “Votes for Women” buttons like the one shown here. In honor of the Centennial, the Bancroft Library is reproducing a button found in a student scrapbook in its collections.

BHS is purchasing some of those replicas to sell, and should have them available at our booth at the Solano Stroll. Among the marchers this year will be the organizing committee for the centennial celebration in period dress. Come buy one and proudly wear a remembrance of history and early equal rights.
Berkeley Co-op Exhibit
By Therese Pipe

The exhibit opening on May 15 at the Berkeley History Center drew over 100 people with cooperative spirit and memories of the ‘Good Old Berkeley Co-op’ days! We had an amazing panel presentation that included former Co-op employees and experts in the field of consumer cooperatives. A lively discussion with the audience followed. People brought their Co-op member numbers with them, and two prizes were handed out for the lowest numbers. The program was videotaped and is now posted on YouTube at http://www.YouTube.com/JJNoire.

Curators Linda Rosen and Therese Pipe, along with the exhibit team, put in a lot of work in the past month or so before the opening event. The exhibit traces the history of the Berkeley Co-op from its beginnings during the Depression until its demise in the late 1980s.

The exhibit closes September 10.

We followed the timeline for the Co-op and concentrated on major points affecting it—from the early buying club and the Finnish Co-op to its major contributions effecting consumers; in particular, the work of the home economists and education department, the endorsement of social causes, Co-op social activities, and its expansion and decline. Linda Rosen did the primary text and visuals, and her husband Steve Rosen scanned, restored, and printed historical Co-op photographs. John Aronovici contributed by scanning, printing, and helping to mount the visual materials. Therese Pipe did some of the write-ups and took quotes from the published and unpublished oral histories in our Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley Oral History collection. Former Co-op News editor Bob Schildgen served as advisor, writer, and editor, and Vangie (Elkins) Buell and Valerie Yasukochi also contributed texts and artifacts. It’s an exhibit of which we all can be proud.

http://www.berkeleyhistoricalsociety.org

Arvid Nelson breaks ground for the new Co-op store at 1414 University Avenue 1953.

“Back in the old days we had delivery service in Berkeley. It ended when the truck wore out. Carrying loads like this did it in not very long after the photo was taken.”
The next exhibit at the Berkeley History Center celebrates the centennial of California women’s right to vote and the role of Berkeley women in the effort. The project started with a City of Berkeley Proclamation presented on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2011, sponsored by council members Linda Maio and Susan Wengraff.

We are researching Berkeley’s Theresa Jacquemin - the first woman to register to vote at the Alameda County Courthouse in 1896; the October 10, 1911, Vote for Women; the morphing of the Berkeley suffrage organizations into the Civic League, the predecessor to the League of Women Voters; and Berkeley women's first vote on April 27, 1912.

Many activities are occurring in conjunction with both the BHS Exhibit and the general public celebration of the “California Women Suffrage Centennial 1911-2011”. Join us for the BHS events! Please check our website for more details: www.berkeleyhistoricalsociety.org

Poster at right was created by artist Bertha Margaret Boye for the 1911 California campaign. Boye’s design, featuring a draped western suffragist posed against the Golden Gate as the sun sets behind her, won first place in a contest sponsored by the College Equal Suffrage League in San Francisco.

Berkeley Historical Society Planned Activities:

September 11, 2011: BHS is sponsoring a Women Suffrage unit as part of the Solano Stroll. Women and men in period costume are welcome. More information to come.


Fall 2011: BHS two Saturday walking tours relating to women’s history in Berkeley from early in the 20th century.

October 24, 2011: BHS and Berkeley Public Library joint exhibit in the Berkeley’s Central Library.

Other Berkeley Activities

August 2011, Exhibit, University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library


October 10, 2011: California-wide centennial celebration at the state Capitol and the History and Women Museums. More information to come.

Planning and research committee members are BHS and co-sponsors League of Women Voters, Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville; American Association of University Women, Berkeley Branch; and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. If you would like to join the committee, please contact the curator, Phyllis Gale, through the Berkeley Historical Society at 510-848-0181.

SEE US IN THE SOLANO STROLL PARADE AND VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE STROLL

Do you have a Suffragist connection? We have already discovered important women by happenstance. Could your ancestor have had a role? Please contact the Historical Society at 510-848-0181.
Calendar of Events

August 6, **Walking Tour:** Lake Merritt Modern, 10 am-12:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 7, **Walking tour:** The Redwoods of Oakland, 10 am-1:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 7, **Exhibit:** Richmond Day at the Panama Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, August 7, 1915, Richmond Museum. Through October 1. For more information, call 510-235-7387 or visit http://www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org/

August 10, **Walking Tour:** San Francisco Waterfalls and Other Treasures, Berkeley Path Wanderers, 9:10 am. For more information, call 510-520-3876 or visit www.berkeleypaths.org

August 12, **Co-op Program** with Mike Fullerton & Alice Gates. 4 pm at the Berkeley Historical Society.

August 13, **Walking Tour:** A Landscape of Stories: 6 Acres of Discovery at Peralta Hacienda, 1 pm-2:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 13, **AlA East Bay Home Tour** 2011, 10 am-4:30 pm. For more information, call 510-464-3600 or visit http://aiaeb.org/

August 14, **Walking Tour:** Clawson Neighborhood, 10 am-12:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 20, **Walking Tour:** Richmond Boulevard: Remnant of City Beautiful, 10 am-12:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 21, **Walking Tour:** Oakland’s Cable Railways, 10 am-1 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 21, **Walking Tour:** Oakland Urban Paths, Berkeley Path Wanderers, 10 am. For more information, call 510-520-3876 or visit www.berkeleypaths.org

August 25, **Lecture:** Victoria’s Legacy in Alameda, Alameda Museum, 7 pm. For more information, call 510-521-1233 or visit http://www.alameda museum.org

August 27, **Walking Tour:** Oakland Women’s History Walk: Looking Back 100 Years after Suffrage, 1 pm-3:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

August 28, **Walking Tour:** The Dimond Shines!, 10 am-1:30 pm. For more information, call 510-763-9218 or visit http://www.oaklandheritage.org

September 4, **Co-op Program** with Bob Schildgen, Chuck Wallenberg, and Linda Rosen. 3 pm at Berkeley Historical Society.

September 10, **Walking Tour:** Historic Urns of Thousand Oaks, Berkeley Path Wanderers, 1 pm. For more information, call 510-520-3876 or visit www.berkeleypaths.org

September 11, Solano Stroll, 10 am-6 pm.

September 18, **Exhibit Opening:** Berkeley Women Vote: Celebrating California Votes for Women 1911-2011, Berkeley History Center, 3 pm. For more information, call 510-548-0181 or visit www.berkeley historical society.org

September 19, **Walking Tour:** Berkeley’s Outdoor Art Galleries, Berkeley Path Wanderers, 6 pm. For more information, call 510-520-3876 or visit www.berkeleypaths.org

September 25, **Alameda Legacy Home Tour,** 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call 510.523.5907 or visit http://www.alameda-home-tour.org/tickets.html

September 29, **Lecture:** Vintage Transportation on the Island, Alameda Museum, 7 pm. For more information, call 510-521-1233 or visit http://www.alameda museum.org

Membership Application

I would like to enroll as a member:

- Individual $20
- Family $25
- Contributor $50
- Business $100
- Sponsor $100
- I would like to contribute to the L.L. Stein Endowment Fund: $_______________

Please make checks out to BHS.

Mail to: Berkeley Historical Society
PO Box 1190 Berkeley, CA 94701

I am interested in being in a volunteer. Please call me.

Name__________________________
Address________________________
City_____________________________
State__________ Zip______________
Phone__________________________
E-mail*________________________

*So we can notify you of special events or confirm your reservation.