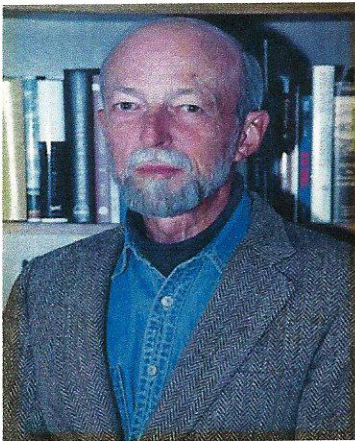


Special Edition

April 2020

Celebrating the Life of *JOE ENGBECK*



Joseph H. Engbeck Jr

Environmental activist, historian, and writer Joseph H. Engbeck Jr. died on March 23 at his home in Berkeley, having coped for many years with the effects of Parkinson's disease. He was 87 years old. In presenting Joe with its "Honorary Ranger for 2017" award, the California State Park Rangers Association cited Joe's influence on "preserving our natural and cultural heritage . . . and of connecting people" with those resources. Such imperatives guided his lifetime of work.

Joe grew up in San Leandro, California, and graduated from San Leandro High School in 1950. His subsequent studies at U.C. Berkeley were interrupted by two years of service with the U.S. Army Security Agency, most of that time spent in Germany. On his return, he completed his degree in English at the university, and in 1956 he married Martha Randolph. Joe and Martha were to become the parents of two sons, Eric and John.

For several years Joe owned and operated Harbeck Metals, a Berkeley-based scrap metal dealership and industrial demolition contracting firm. Also, in the 1960s he became active in local conservation organizations and public policy matters. He organized People for Open Space (later The Greenbelt Alliance), dedicated to developing a reliable greenbelt for the Bay Area at a time when many were concerned about the encroachment of suburban development on farmland in the region. He was also a founding member of the Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association, formed to influence land use and transportation planning in southeast Berkeley. CENA soon supported a traffic management system that would protect neighborhood streets from heedless commuter travel. One result, the installation of traffic diverters, provoked anti-diverter forces to put "the barricades" to a vote in two elections. They were defeated both times, and the diverters have remained in place, many of them now permanently landscaped.

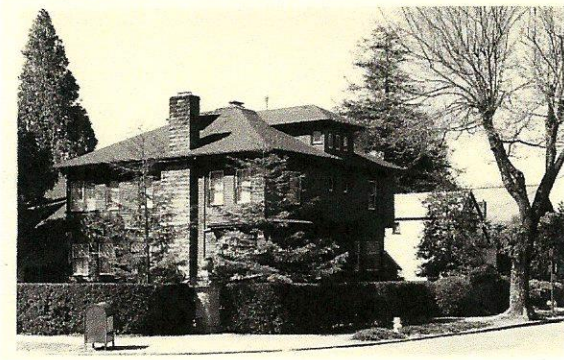
Joe's interest in city traffic patterns led to his participation in various City of Berkeley boards and commissions related to transportation issues. At the same time, he joined the Citizens' Task Force for the East Bay Regional Park District's Twenty-year Expansion Plan and contributed a comprehensive master plan to the effort. As co-founder of Friends of Claremont Canyon (precursor to the current Claremont Canyon Conservancy), he led the campaign to preserve 500 acres of open space in Claremont Canyon, land that later became a regional preserve.

Along the way, Joe was also a trustee of the California Historical Society, member of the board of the Save San Francisco Bay Association, and on the board of Friends of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers. He also became a Councilor (later with Honorary status) for Save the Redwoods League, an organization with which he enjoyed a long association.

In 1969 Joe became a research writer for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. He wrote prodigiously during his tenure with State Parks, beginning with the informational brochures park visitors received at park entrance points (Joe estimated he provided the text for over 200 of them). He moved on to write books large and small about California parks.

His book about giant sequoia, "Enduring Giants: The epic story of giant sequoia and the Big Trees of Calaveras," has been called, in its first three editions, a classic of its kind. Besides its close attention to the natural history of *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, the book tells about the many campaigns devoted to saving the trees, acre by acre and grove

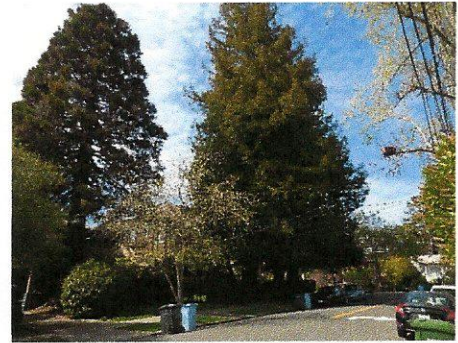
by grove, until park status was achieved. Such stories inspired Joe wherever they took place, and his accounts of them were themselves compelling.



Joe loved redwood trees and planted them on his property in 1963.

On the left are the trees shortly after he planted them.

On the right are the trees as they stand in April 2020



Joe also compiled a history, "State Parks of California," which appeared in 1980 and traced the development of the parks system from its origins in 1864. Generously illustrated with archival photos and the photography of Philip Hyde, the book was praised for showing how the vision and practical accomplishments of committed preservationists over the years had created one million acres of land under State Park management for the benefit of the people.

Other publications for the parks department include "La Purisima Mission, An Illustrated History," a small book about the restoration and reconstruction of the mission during the 1930s and its eventual development as a state historic park. "Gloria Dei, The Story of California Mission Music" describes the music of the period and the role it played in the Franciscan missions of Spanish and Mexican California.

Joe retired from State parks in 1994 as manager of the department's publications program. He made life-long friends in the parks field, many of them now mourning the passing of a respected mentor and colleague.

Joe's interests continued to find expression after his retirement. "By the People, For the People: The Work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks, 1937-1941" appeared in 2002. Its text and illustrations verify the importance of the CCC both to the more than two million young men whose lives were changed by their experience and to the parks themselves, where the enrollees constructed buildings, trails, bridges, and culverts that still survive.

Joe's last book was also his most ambitious. In 2015 he completed "Saving the Redwoods: The Movement to Rescue a Wonder of the Natural World." Sponsored by the Save the Redwoods League, this lengthy volume is the result of several years of careful research. The scope is broad, details generously supplied. It tells an epic story involving powerful adversaries and many heroes, some well-known (John Muir, John D. Rockefeller Jr, Judi Bari, and Julia "Butterfly" Hill, for example) but most largely forgotten or never famous. The book also draws clear links between the efforts to rescue the redwoods and the parks movement in general. Those who succeeded in saving redwood forests from the sawmill, the author's prologue concludes, "had no idea . . . how profoundly the fight to save the redwoods would affect the movement to preserve other parts of the natural landscape in other parts of California, in the nation, and around the world." Though many organizations and individuals played important roles in the redwood's preservation story, the Save the Redwoods League claims Joe as its official historian, grateful that his book has given voice to the organization's proud history.

Joe continued his involvements with public land advocacy groups in recent years. For as long as his health would allow, he remained an active member and officer of the Regional Parks Association. He served also on the executive committee for the Claremont Canyon Conservancy, leading a sizeable project that involved planting thousands of redwood seedlings in the canyon, with the help of many volunteers. Now that enough redwoods have survived and begun to make their growing presence known, the value of the tree-planting project to the Conservancy's ambitious fire-abatement goals becomes increasingly clear.

We cannot here ignore Joe's love of golf. All of his former partners admired his "sweet swing." One of them recalls his joy on the golf course. Others remark that in Joe's company you felt that you were golfing with someone with the keys to golf's greatest secrets, which he would quietly share with you at the right moment.

It must also be said that there was no better companion than Joe on a hike or a backpacking trip. He knew the plants, the trees, the birds, the rocks, and the weather. He also loved Lake Tahoe and fast boats.

In addition to his loving spouse, Sondra Reid, Joe is survived by his son Eric Engbeck, Eric's wife, Debbie, and their daughter, Erin, and son-in-law, Laurent; and by his son John Engbeck and John's children, Niccolo and Marriah. Joe will also be missed by two stepchildren and their families (David Reid and wife Anne, and Jennifer Cord and husband Matthew), including five step-grandchildren.

The family thanks a loyal team of caregivers, led by Dennis Vergara, whose devoted attentions made it possible for Joe to remain at his home until the end.

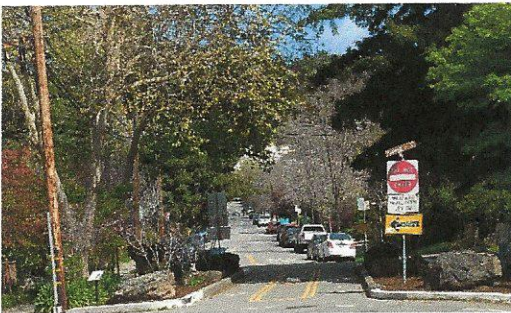
Memorial donations may be sent to Save the Redwoods League, 111 Sutter Street, 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104 (www.savetheredwoods.org), or to an environmental organization of your choice. A time for a gathering in Joe's honor will be announced at a later date.

Celebrating the life of *JOE ENGBECK*

"The Story Behind the Traffic Diverter at Piedmont and Russell" (Highlights from history written by Joe in 2011)

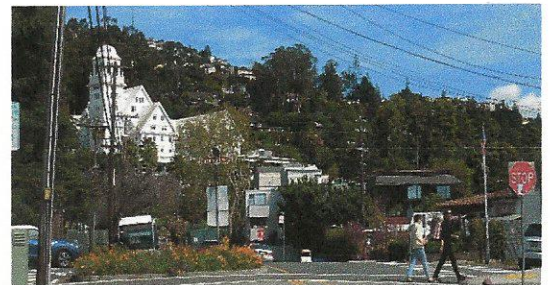
Traffic congestion in Berkeley started to become a major problem after WWII and the building of the Caldecott Tunnel in 1941. The tunnel began to bring people into the city from the east - from Contra Costa County and Oakland's hill area - even though Berkeley's arterial streets all ran north and south rather than east and west. To solve this problem the city widened several streets and intersections, most of them in south Berkeley where Ashby Avenue/Tunnel Road was for the first time expected to carry regional traffic. In the 1950's, the City hired their first traffic engineer to install traffic lights and set up one-way streets, but the problem continued to worsen.

In 1964, the City hired Wilbur-Smith, a traffic engineering firm, to devise a grand citywide solution to the problem. Their plan called for the widening of 50 streets and conversion of Ashby Avenue and Tunnel Road into a six-lane expressway with a 16-foot-wide center divider. Two hundred homes would have to be demolished alongside the proposed expressway between San Pablo Avenue and the top of Tunnel Road. In



Diverter at Russell and Piedmont Ave.

Diverter at Russell and Claremont Blvd



1965, the City Planning Commission held a public hearing to present the plan to the public and allow citizens to comment on it.

Hundreds of people attended the public hearing to protest. These citizens asked for the city to pay less attention to accommodating automobile traffic and more attention to neighborhood livability. In 1968 a new "circulation section" of the citywide master plan was unanimously adopted by the City Council. The plan included traffic signals, traffic islands and diverters and other devices designed to protect residential neighborhoods and limit through traffic to a citywide network of designated arterials. Citizens who felt this plan was illegal first created ballot measures which were defeated before taking their case to the California Supreme Court who ruled in their favor. To resolve this problem for cities who were using this approach, the State Legislature gave cities the legal ability to use traffic diverters the following year.

The plan was only partially implemented at first. Although traffic counts showed more than 3,200 cars a day whizzing up and down Russell Street, many going 40 or 50 miles an hour, the city was reluctant to do anything until a traffic management plan could be developed for southwest Berkeley which resulted in the formation of the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA) in 1969/70. After another long journey, this effort eventually resulted in the installation of "temporary bollards" at the top and bottom of our section of Russell Street in the early 1970's.

It was not until 2000, when we saw the chance to replace the bollards with a more permanent solution of landscaping diverters along with the total reconstruction of our section of Russell Street. A large neighborhood committee was formed who raised money, hired an architect and developed a plan. The native California species garden, including the large boulders you see today, was completed in 2003.

To read the entire article and see the 1997 CENA Newsletter, go to www.claremontelmwood.org and then go to the "Archives" tab and then to the "Documents" tab.

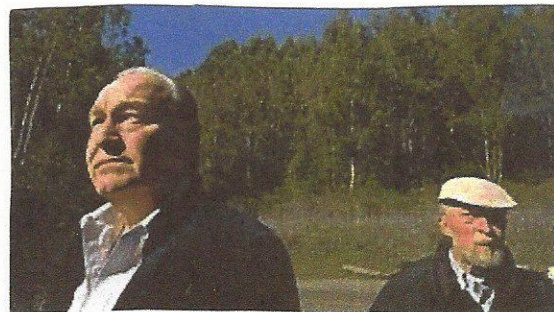
Celebrating the Life of *JOE ENGBECK*

Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

July 1969

C R Hanancocks	Derby Street	Dr. & Mrs. James Faircloth	Tunnel Road
Robert Cornwall	Derby Street	Norman & Julia Lehman	Oak Knoll Terrace
Edwin Verner	Derby Street	Bragleys	Oak Knoll Terrace
M G Weber	Piedmont Ave.	Joan & Richard McDonough	Belrose Ave.
Mary Spivey	Linden Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hone	Tanglewood Road
Joann Schwartz	Benvenue Ave.	Wm & Billy Gilbert	Claremont Blvd
Fred Harvey	Benvenue Ave.	Bill Ermet	Claremont Blvd
R Lowenfort	Avalon Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. James Nickelson	Claremont Blvd
Janet Johnson	Avalon Ave.	Peter Adomeit	Claremont Blvd
Dororhy Tamlue	Avalon Ave.	Ed & Jan Levin	Russell Street
David & Polly Todd	Avalon ave.	Manvel Talovsky	Russell Street
Mrs Donald Celnest	Forest Ave.	Martha Engbeck	Russell Street
A Howard	Forest Ave.	Larry & Beverly Doane	Russell Street
Glen & Quack Fisher	Forest Ave.	E.T Moore, Jr.	Russell Street
W. Price	Forest Ave.	Glaze Feiger	Russell Street
Mrs Richard Haas	Forest Ave.	John Takeuchi	Russell Street
J Marchant	Claremont Ave.	Joe Engbeck Jr.	Russell Street
Don & Ann Arndt	Stonewall	Mrs. Howard Hansell	Russell Street
John March	College Ave.	Venus David	Webster Street
Barbara Olenir	Piedmont Ave.	Ben Christoperson	Ashby Ave.
Hal Gilbert	Piedmont Ave.	John Elphick	Ashby Place
Mary Lanigan	Piedmont Ave.	Fred & Ruth Denton	Garber Street
		L & R Sovin	Pine Street





CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSEPH ENGBECK

WHEREAS, Joseph Engbeck was an environmental activist, historian, and writer and died on March 23, 2020 at his home in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, starting in the 1960s he became active in local conservation organizations and public policy matters organizing People for Open Space (later The Greenbelt Alliance), and later contributed to the East Bay Regional Park District's Twenty-year Expansion Plan and collaborated on its comprehensive master plan, and co-founded Friends of Claremont Canyon, the precursor to the current Claremont Canyon Conservancy, where he led the campaign to preserve 500 acres of open space in Claremont Canyon; and

WHEREAS, Joe was also a founding member of the Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association, formed to influence land use and in support of a traffic management system that would protect Berkeley neighborhood streets. One outcome from this effort was the installation of our current "traffic diverters"; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 Joe became a research writer for the California Department of Parks and Recreation and wrote prodigiously, beginning with the informational brochures park visitors received at park entrance points and moved on to write books large and small about California parks, including *"Enduring Giants: The epic story of the giant sequoia and the Big Trees of Calaveras"*, with his last book in 2015 being his most ambitious – *"Saving the Redwoods: The Movement to Rescue a Wonder of the Natural World"*; and

WHEREAS, Joe continued his involvements with public land advocacy groups for as long as his health would allow, and was acknowledged as the California State Park Rangers Association "Honorary Ranger for 2017" which cited Joe's influence on "preserving our natural and cultural heritage . . . and of connecting people" with those resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby declare April 9, 2020 as

JOSEPH ENGBECK DAY

in the City of Berkeley.

Jesse Arreguin
Mayor

April 9, 2020

Celebrating the Life of *JOE ENGBECK*

CENA History

The Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA) was formed in 1969. The primary impetus was to expand traffic management planning started earlier by Emerson School Neighborhood Association and the Safety Committee of Emerson School PTA.

Committees went to work on traffic and transit, but soon other neighborhood concerns became apparent and CENA began to work on land use, parks and open space, and social concerns. Funds were raised and consultants hired to provide CENA with the best possible advice about how to protect and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. CENA was established as a non-profit corporation in the State of California on October 20, 1975.

Current and past presidents are (in alphabetical order): John Cecil, Mary Ann Clegg, Fred Collignon, Joe Engbeck, Karen Faircloth, William Gilbert, Bob Holtzapple, Mark Humbert, Martha Jones, Jacquelyn McCormick, Dean Metzger, Phil Polakoff, John Weil and Doris Willingham.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Landmarking Claremont Hotel & Claremont Court Entry Gates and Pillars:

In 2000, the owners of the Claremont Hotel proposed expansion including 165 additional units in front of the hotel's main building. The Berkeley/Oakland Neighbors of the Claremont (BONC) was formed and applied for City of Oakland landmark status for the property.

CENA, along with the Parish of St. Clements, supported landmarking the Claremont Court Entry Gates and Pillars, designed by John Galen Howard in the early 1900's.

Emergency Preparedness: In 1999, CENA developed a plan for disaster recovery supplies and implemented it for all neighbors in the Claremont-Elmwood who elected to participate.

University of California Covenants: In the early 1980's the University of California made plans to acquire the Deaf & Blind School property (now Clark Kerr Campus). The CENA neighborhood negotiated with UC and agreed to drop its opposition if UC would limit their use of the site in legally binding covenants.

Elmwood Commercial District: In 1975, in order to preserve the unique character of the Elmwood Shopping District, CENA worked closely with Elmwood Merchants Association and other neighborhood associations to draft a zoning ordinance that would limit the size of the district.

Conference on Curbing the Car: CENA led the effort for a major conference dedicated to transit improvements and automobile traffic management strategies. Panel discussions featured northern California's leading figures in the transportation field. April, 1972

Landvale Interchange Re-design: CENA led the fight to block construction of the Landvale Interchange in 1972.

Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve: In 1970, CENA persuaded the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 80 acres of scenic open space in the hills just east of the California Schools for the Deaf & Blind (now Clark Kerr Campus).

Citywide Local Transit Study: In 1970, at CENA's urging, the City of Berkeley agreed to establish a citywide special task force designed to advise the City Planning Commission.

Traffic & Transit Study in Southeast Berkeley: AC Transit and City of Berkeley agreed to participate with CENA in a study of traffic and transit in southeast Berkeley in 1969.

Emerson School Neighborhood Circulation Plan: To provide safety for children near Emerson School, a number of traffic management devices were installed, including street closures, diverters, chokers and stop signs.

McMILLAN & OLSON

C.O. McMILLAN
PETER A. OLSON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2963 COLLEGE AVENUE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94705

(415) 845-68

December 8, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr.
2746 Russell Street
Berkeley, California 94705

Re: Elmwood Merchants Association, Inc.- Claremont-Elmwood Assn.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Engbeck:

It has come to my attention through an article (photo copy enclosed) which appeared in the November 26, 1969 issue of the Berkeley Daily Gazette, that you and your group have formed a "Claremont-Elmwood Assn.", to "enhance and protect the quality of life of the neighborhood".

As Attorney for the Elmwood Merchants Association and the one who drafted its Articles of Incorporation, I must insist, in behalf of our membership, that you cease and desist at once using the name "Claremont- Elmwood Assn."

The reason for my insisting (that you cease and desist) is because the public might readily confuse the name "Claremont-Elmwood Assn." with the name "Elmwood Merchants Association".

I must also insist that you not select and/or use any name or title which the public might confuse with the name Elmwood Merchants Association, such as any name including the words "Elmwood Association".

It is doubly important that there be no confusion by the public between your organization, under whatever name or title, and the Elmwood Merchants Association, since some, if not many or most, of our Association's members are opposed to some of the plans, proposals and projects originated and/or supported by your group.

As one who has both his residence and business in the Claremont-Elmwood area, it appears to me that your organization should confine its name or title to the Emerson School neighborhood. Your selection of a name such as "Claremont-Elmwood Assn." strikes me as presumptuous, since I am sure there are many who live in the Claremont-Elmwood area who do not support your plans, programs, or projects.

If you do not cease and desist using the name "Claremont-Elmwood Assn." or any other name which might be confused with the name Elmwood Merchants Association, I shall recommend to our Association that all legal action necessary be taken to enjoin you from using such confusing name.

Very truly yours,
C.O. McMillan

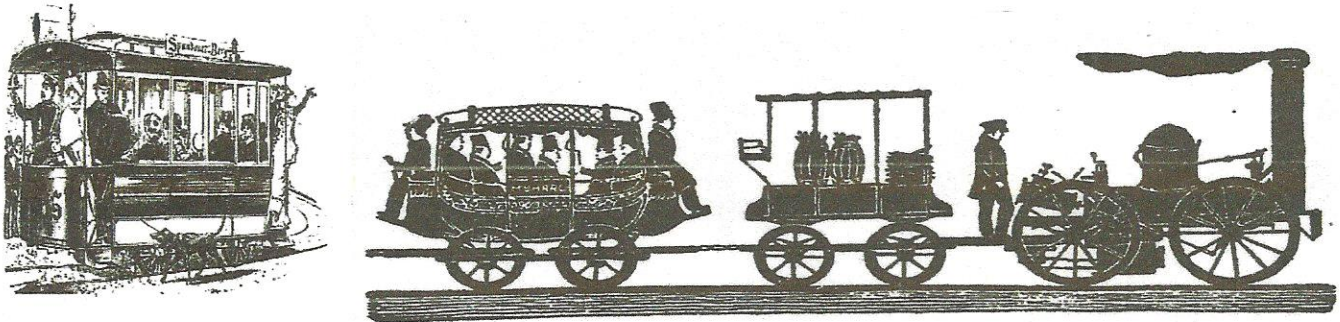
CC: Mrs. William Gilbert
2952 Claremont Blvd., Berkeley, CA 94705

Celebrating the Life of *JOE ENGBECK*

Every time I walk by the landscaped diverter I call the "Joe Engbeck mini-park", I remember how my soft-spoken and modest neighbor used to hit an occasional car during that first week when they rushed through the diverter. But Joe was also tough and tenacious until he accomplished what he set out to do. I'm grateful that he never gave up: Russell Street is pedestrian-friendly, College Avenue is still small businesses and Claremont Canyon looks better than ever. My life here in the Elmwood was blessed to have him as a friend and neighbor for nearly 50 years. - Burl Willes

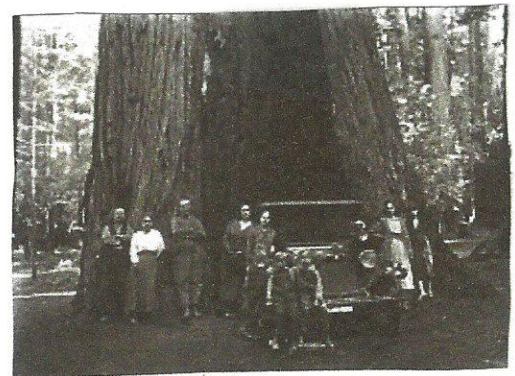
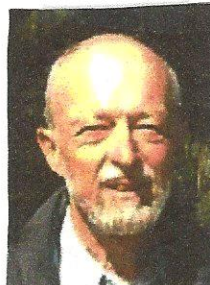
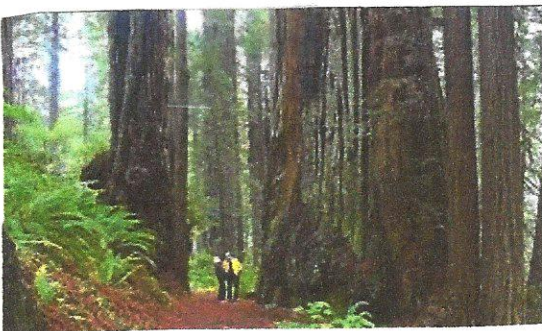
Joe was a brilliant mind who understood the power dynamics of this city. His own focus was razor sharp. As a friend, he taught me to pick my battles. He is sorely missed. - Carlene St. John

Joe was a great supporter of CENA. As one of its founders he always encouraged me and others to be active in supporting the livability of the CENA neighborhood. I will miss him as a friend and advisor. - Dean Metzger



Joe Engbeck was one of those rare individuals who found a way to make a difference in many of our lives. His love of nature and his willingness to devote time to preserve it for the rest of us will be remembered forever. As manager of the States Parks Publications Program he was able to publish books and articles on the opportunity's we have as the public to take advantage of California's great outdoors. His work mirrors that of John Muir.

Joe's interest in his neighbors and neighborhood are also special to all of us who live here. Through his efforts, CENA was born. The neighborhood organization is now the largest neighborhood association in Berkeley. While even for him it was difficult to move the city and state to improve the traffic conditions in the neighborhood, it is in the memory of his insistence that we continue to work to improve them.



Thank you, **JOE**, for all that you have done for us.
The CENA Neighborhood