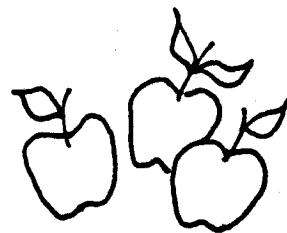


Local Dirt

January 16, 2001

The Newsletter of the Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative



Member Gardens:

Berkeley Alternative High School
Berkeley Youth Alternative's Garden Patch
Ecohouse
The Edible Schoolyard
Karl Linn Garden
Northside/Peralta Gardens
LeConte School Farm & Garden
Malcolm X School Garden
Ohlone Community Garden
Oxford School Garden
People's Park Garden
Spiral Gardens
Strong Roots Gardens
U.C. Berkeley-Student Garden
Willard Greening Project
Washington School Garden

Affiliates and Supporters:

Alameda Co. Food Bank
Americorps
American Community Gardening Association
Berkeley Ecology Center
The Food Systems Project
CALCorps
Center for Ecoliteracy
City of Berkeley
Occidental Ecology Center
West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corp

Next Meeting: Jan. 29th

Monday, 6:00

Potluck Supper

Please phone in items for our agenda on January 29th: 527-3773.

Notes from November Meeting:

Kelsey, Head Gardener from the Edible Schoolyard, will have bare-root apple and pear trees to give away to school or community gardens. Let him know if you are interested; 558-1335.

The garden at Project Sunflower has been abandoned, but the site is available for use. Please call Beebo Turman, 883-9096 for more information.

We had updates on school gardens, what tools to buy, a summary of community gardening in Richmond, and a discussion about how to spend our windfall donation of \$500. (See following story.)

Berkeley City Championship, Golf Tournament, Gives Donation!

The Berkeley City Championship played its Second Annual Golf Tournament on October 2, 2000. The Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative thanks the Championship for its donation of \$500.00 in support of our gardens.

After some discussion on Nov. 20th, 2000 we agreed to use half of the funds to help Longfellow school gardeners build some raised beds, and half of the funds to go for promotion of a city wide effort to get parents and students gardening more, and promote "Turn off your T.V.- Week."

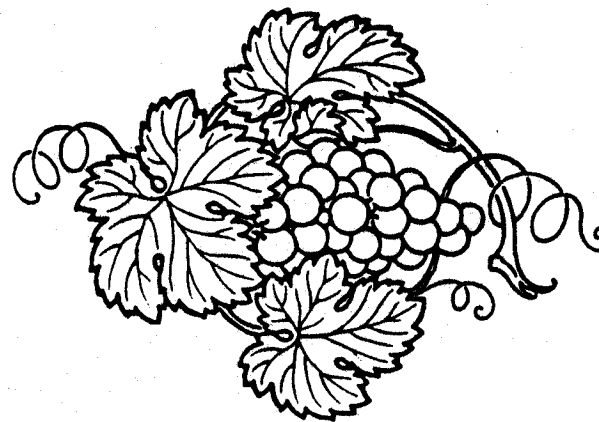
B.C.G.C. is very grateful for this support. It is businesses and organizations such as this one that show us there is wide-spread generosity for our gardening movement!

School Gardener Goes to Cuba!

Rivka Mason, Gardener at Malcolm X School, will go to Cuba with a sustainable agricultural group from "Food First." She is taking photos and slides to show fellow gardeners in Cuba. We hope she returns with interesting photos she will show us!

Seeds for Thought, by Rivka Mason

We need a land reform in the United States, and a social reform, which encourages people to go back to the land and grow food and take care of eco-systems. How can we live in the inner cities and grow our own food, how can we get support and encourage others at the same time? Every backyard gardener could get a \$400.00 deduction on their taxes. Each family or group of people could save their receipts for soil, tools, and seeds they bought, and the government could give a tax rebate. This might be a real incentive for people to garden more for their own food, to say nothing of the joys of eating your own produce! Any politicians out there who are gardeners?



The Eco-City Builders will come to our January 29th meeting to discuss their proposal for an ammendment to the Berkeley General Plan. They would like our endorsement, so there will be a discussion about this.

Berkeley Farmer's Market 2001 Events

Tuesday, Feb. 27th (1pm to dusk): Mardi Gras Celebration (music!)

Tuesday, April 3rd : Begin new summer hours (2pm – 7 pm)

Saturday, April 21st: Berkeley's Earth Day & Farmer's Market
Family Farm Day

Travis Smith,
New Coordinator
for School Gardens

The Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative welcomes Travis Smith, who is the new School Garden Coordinator for Berkeley Unified School District. Travis worked for 3 years for Willard Greening Project, and is now working with Erica Peng for the Nutrition Network Grant for all the schools. Travis will help start gardens where there are none, and work to enhance existing gardens by giving a hand to the site garden coordinators, sometimes employing the "garden team" approach. An example of this was when gardeners, Americorps members, and parents all gathered to pull, dig weeds out of a large area in the Edible Schoolyard garden. Not many children like to weed, so this joint effort was the best method to maintain our organic (i.e. no "Round-Up!") gardens.



"I say it's genetically altered, and I say the hell with it."

Codornices Creek, Green Space,
and Temple Beth El's New Building on Oxford Street

On January 11th the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board held a public hearing to discuss the use permit for the Temple Beth Ed proposal for their new building and surrounding site. There were perhaps 200 people who showed up on a cold, rainy night. No decision was made, and further discussion will take place at their February meeting.

A large building is planned for 1301 Oxford Street; a 35,000 square foot synagogue/school/community center. Many people feel it is too large and out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood. The 35 on-site parking is not enough. The Live Oak Codornices Creek Neighborhood Association feels that "this project also will rob the city of the possibility of an extension of the Live Oak Park/Codornices Creek Greenbelt, and foreclose the possibilities of removing the culvert and of returning the endangered steelhead trout to the upper creek." For more information, visit our website at :<http://www.katz.com/locna>, or call 848-4465 (Alan Gould).