

2008 SPECIAL COMMENDATION
PRESENTED BY
BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
TO
The Fountain at The Circle
Sara and Harvard Holmes
And the Friends of the Fountain and Walk

We wish to award a Special Commendation for the continuing upkeep of perhaps the most beloved, restored treasure in Berkeley, the Fountain at The Circle located where Arlington, Marin, Los Angeles, Del Norte and Mendocino all converge at the 1911 centerpiece of the Northbrae subdivision, and a busy hub today. The whole ensemble was designed by John Galen Howard, better known as the U.C. Architect of the classical campus buildings.

Between 1958 when a truck careened down Marin and crashed through the fountain, until restoration was complete in the mid-1990's, Berkeley was without this civic treasure, and The Circle fell into considerable disrepair.

Sara Holmes, volunteer coordinator and her husband Harvard Holmes and the Friends of the Fountain and Walk volunteers are the heroes who work constantly and tirelessly to maintain this beautiful landmark which was the recipient of two BAHA Preservation Awards: 1994 for the balustrade and rail restoration and three years later for the restored fountain.

Continual maintenance tasks include: sweeping the gutters, trimming the boxwood hedge, pulling weeds, removing graffiti, collecting trash, providing tools and green cans, and working with the City to repair and replace vehicle-damaged balustrades, rails and the bollards, when someone has driven across the green grass at the fountain.

This was Berkeley's first joint City/community project. Sara alerts the City when something needs to be done, doing it herself if necessary. She trained City employees on the maintenance of the fountain and is basically an unpaid City employee herself, doing what needs to be done nearly every day, and directing the Friends of the Fountain and Walk volunteers every first Saturday of the month. They welcome new volunteers and additional donations to this non-profit, to cover what the City does not. But I will let Sara tell the myriad tasks and background negotiations that are necessary for the upkeep of this landmark.

From the heavy volume of traffic passing The Circle, this appears to be the route of choice for everyone who can find an excuse to drive by. The night-lit Fountain is spectacular, especially during the Holidays when the bears wear big red bows.

We want to recognize and commend you, Sara and Harvard, for your hard work and continuous contributions to the fountain at The Circle and toward to making Berkeley a very special place.