

May 2021

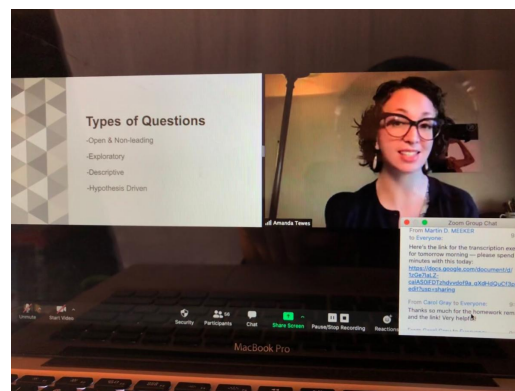
News from the OHC

From all of us at the Oral History Center, we are wishing you our best in these challenging times.

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy.

March Column from Guest Contributor Amanda Tewes: Looking to the Future of Oral History Work

Every other month during 2021, we'll be hearing from OHC guest columnists. This month, interviewer Amanda Tewes looks back at the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on oral history and how this might inform our work as practioners in the future.



Read Amanda Tewes's guest column, "Looking to the Future of Oral History Work," [here](#).

The Advanced Summer Institute

The OHC is offering an online version of our one-week **advanced institute** on the methodology, theory, and practice of oral history. This will take place from August 9-13, 2021. Applications will be accepted through July 16, 2021. **Apply now!**



The cost of the Advanced Institute has been adjusted to reflect the online nature of this year's program. This year's cost has been adjusted to \$550. See below for details about this year's institute.

The institute is designed for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, university faculty, independent scholars, and museum and community-based historians who are engaged in oral history work. The goal of the institute is to strengthen the ability of its participants to conduct research-focused interviews and to consider special characteristics of interviews as historical evidence in a rigorous academic environment.

We will devote particular attention to how oral history interviews can broaden and deepen historical interpretation situated within contemporary discussions of history, subjectivity, memory, and memoir.

Instruction will take place online from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time, with breaks woven in. There will be three sessions a day: two seminar sessions and a workshop. Seminars will cover oral history theory, legal and ethical issues, project planning, oral history and the audience, anatomy of an interview, editing, fundraising, and analysis and presentation. During workshops, participants will work throughout the week in small groups, led by faculty, to develop and refine their projects.

Applications are now open!

Class of '31 Nominations are Now Open!

They've made a difference at UC Berkeley. Who are you thinking of right now?

Is there a Berkeley faculty, administrator, or staff person — past or present — who's made an impact on campus? This is your opportunity to nominate someone who has made an outstanding contribution to campus life — or to the teaching, research, or public service mission of the university — and we'll interview the selected candidate for posterity.

Nominations are due by June 30, 2021. Nominate here!

Selection criteria for nominees include willingness of the nominee to participate, uniqueness of the nominee's story, and level of contribution to campus life, among others. This oral history honor has been made possible by a generous endowment from the class of '31.

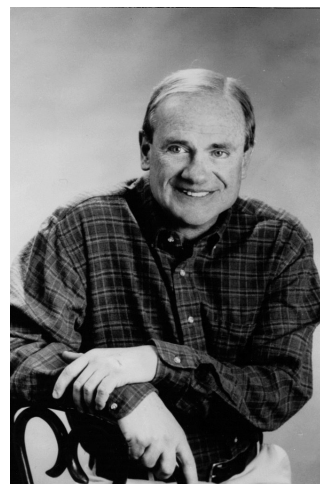
If you have any questions, please contact OHC Director Martin Meeker at mmeeker@library.berkeley.edu.

New Interview Releases:

H. Anthony (Tony) Ruckel: Sierra Club President 1992-1993, Pioneering Environmental Lawyer with Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund

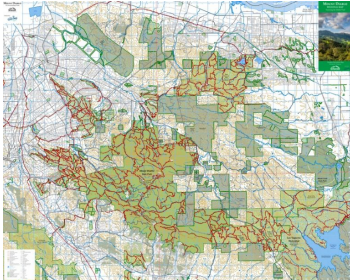
We're pleased to announce the release of the oral history of **H. Anthony Ruckel**, Sierra Club President and pioneering environmental lawyer, which is part of the **Sierra Club Oral History Project**. As a young lawyer, Ruckel was just shy of his twenty-ninth birthday when, in the spring of 1969, he brought the nation's first litigation under the **1964 Wilderness**

Act to the US District Court for Colorado. He was the founding director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office for the Sierra Club Legal Defense



Fund, and later became Secretary, Treasurer, and President (1992-1993) of the national Sierra Club. In this oral history, Ruckel discusses all the above, as well as his service on the Sierra Club's Investment Advisory Committee, where he helped pioneer for environmental non-profits their financial investment in non-extractive industries.

Read more about Roger Eardley-Pryor's interview with Ruckel here.



Map of Mount Diablo



Samantha Ready

Preserving Spaces and Stories with Save Mount Diablo

During the Spring '21 semester, OHC Undergraduate Research Apprentice Samantha Ready helped Shanna Farrell and Amanda Tewes prepare for their upcoming oral history project celebrating **Save Mount Diablo's** 50th anniversary.

Samantha wrote about her experience helping Shanna and Amanda research the history of Mount Diablo and the importance of preserving space and stories through the Save Mount Diablo 50th Anniversary Oral History Project.

Read her piece here.

Samantha Ready (she/her) is from Little Rock, Arkansas. She is currently a third-year at Cal double majoring in Ethnic Studies and Geography with a minor in Race and the Law. Some of her favorite pastimes are hiking, traveling, and listening to Johnny Cash.



Annabelle Long

From the Archives: Spotlight on the Disability Rights and Independent Living Movement Oral Histories for Berkeley 150

During the Spring '21 semester, OHC Undergraduate Research Apprentice Annabelle Long explored our archives to highlight a series of interviews from our DRILM series. She worked with Shanna Farrell to write profiles of three impact women involved in the movement.

Linda Perotti, Apolitical Advocate

Linda Perotti didn't mean to join a movement. She arrived in Berkeley a year after the **Free**



Linda Perotti, 1998.

Linda Perotti

Speech Movement got its raucous start on the steps of Sproul Hall, the university's now-famous administrative building on the southern edge of campus, and she was more concerned with keeping up with her coursework than with any of the growing number of antiwar and civil rights movements that would come to characterize Berkeley in the late 60s.

Read Annabelle's profile of Perotti here.

Crip Camp and Judy Heumann: Studies in Movement Snapshots

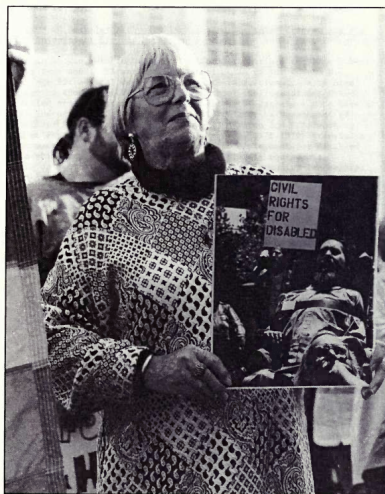
I watched the 2020 documentary **Crip Camp** to get a sense of **Judy Heumann**, the disability rights icon and architect of a movement that created a more accessible world. I had only recently read her oral history, and was eager to learn more about the woman behind the words on the page. When she is first shown in the film, she is doing what I've learned that she does best: leading a group. She has a big voice and a bigger grin, and talks campers through their options for dinner later in the week. She's already thought it through—she considered veal parmesan, but found the veal to be too expensive, so next on her list is lasagna, the suggestion of which elicits both cheers and groans from the crowd. She offers everyone a chance to make their case, and then takes a vote. Lasagna wins—barely. This vote, in its consequences, probably meant very little to Judy and very little to everyone else. But in my mind, it makes one thing clear: Judy didn't make any decisions without considering and consulting the group. She cared what people had to say, and she listened. And so campers had lasagna, and eventually, thanks to her activism, disabled Americans had laws to protect them.

Read Annabelle's profile of Judy Heumann here.



Judy Heumann

Zona Roberts and Learning to Walk Backwards



Zona Roberts, 1996 protest march in San Francisco.

Photo by Bill Branson.

Zona Roberts

The pocket of Berkeley bounded by Telegraph and Shattuck avenues is generally considered to be quiet and uneventful. Colorful Victorian houses line the blocks, gray apartment complexes full of students loom over sidewalks, and telephone lines criss cross over each other, dividing the sky into irregularly sized rectangles and diamonds. I spend a lot of time in this part of Berkeley. I have my favorite houses, my favorite trees, my favorite views in every direction. I have my favorite alleys and blocks and moments in its history. I can't pick a single favorite former resident, but **Zona Roberts** is high on the list.

Zona existed in Berkeley as a mother before she existed here as a student. She lived with her sons Ed, Ron, Mark, and Randy in a pale green house she rented on Ward Street, a few blocks west of the hustle and bustle of Telegraph Avenue and a few blocks east of Shattuck. I often walk by her old house. It's blue now, with red front steps, and it sits unassumingly behind a fence overgrown with flowers in the springtime. When Zona moved in, she had a ramp installed in the back to allow Ed to get inside. **Ed Roberts** was the first wheelchair user ever admitted to UC Berkeley, and virtually nothing in the city was wheelchair accessible when he arrived on campus in 1962, including his mother's home.

Read Annabelle's profile of Zona Roberts here.

Annabelle Long is an Undergraduate Research Apprentice at the Oral History Center. She worked with Shanna Farrell during the Spring '21 semester. Annabelle is a third-year History and Creative Writing student from Sacramento. She works as a conduct caseworker in the Student Advocate's Office and enjoys going on long walks in Berkeley. You can find her on Twitter @annabellekl.

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