



# The *Easy Does It* Rag

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Fall 2005

**Easy Does What?** We provide emergency transportation, wheelchair repair, and attendant care to people with mobility limitations living in Berkeley, CA.

## Photos Available from The Independence Day Picnic!

Hope you made it to Cedar Rose Park on Saturday, July 2— we had good food and a good time. In honor of our 10 year anniversary, the city council presented us with an award, and mayor Tom Bates issued a proclamation— June 28 is now Easy Does It Day!

Thanks to Karlene King for providing the barbecue, and to Quinn Benson and her band Evil Wikkid Warrior for providing us with live entertainment. More photos are available for viewing at our website, <http://www.easyland.org/>.



**The Thinker?** James Keady ponders like a bronze statue by Rodin.



*"Hey where is my shade?"*



*Evil Wikkid Warrior Charms the Crowd.*

## Stranded Somewhere? Call *On the Go*

Have you ever been rescued by Louie or John when your wheelchair broke down? Or when your ride to an appointment failed to show up on time? Have you ever wished you could use our van under less urgent circumstances? Well... great news!

We now offer *On the Go* Transportation seven days a week between 8:30 am and

11:30 pm. We can preschedule rides up to three hours in advance.

Please note. Non-emergency rides can only be paid for with a GREEN van voucher purchased through Berkeley Paratransit. If you are not already registered with Berkeley Paratransit you will have to fill out the application. Otherwise you may pay

at the time of service. Rides are \$12.00 each way.

For information on how to enroll in Berkeley Paratransit, contact the office at (510) 845-5513. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

You can also call Angelique DeCoud at Berkeley Paratransit, (510) 981-5428.

## We Do Repairs!

The next time a flat or a dead battery threatens to ruin your plans, remember that Easy Does It offers minor wheelchair repair, including belts, batteries and tires. There is a fee of \$12.00 per hour for this service.

Our skilled wheelchair technician, John Benson, also has extensive experience both as an attendant and as a driver.

John is popular among EDI clients because of his skill, sensitivity, and patience. He is just the sort of person you want to talk to when it isn't your day.

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## Announcements:

- The newsletter is back! Contact us with comments or questions.
- The Board of Directors meets every fourth Thursday of the month, including September 22, and October 27.
- We are working hard to update the content of our website. [www.easyland.org](http://www.easyland.org). Check it out!
- We accept equipment donations. For details contact the office.

## BOARD CORNER

The Easy Does It Board of Directors meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at the EDIDA administrative offices, 1744A University Ave, Berkeley. This fall meetings will be held **September 22** and **October 27**. November and December meetings TBA due to potential conflicts with the holiday schedule.

**Interested in joining the Board?** Go to <http://www.easyland.org> to download an application. The application deadline is September 15, 2005. Board elections will be held in September.

Minutes and agendas from past meetings are available on the web.

### *Did you know?...*

**Easy Does It supports the Ed Roberts Campus.** Last spring the Board petitioned the partners to let us rent a space and be where the action is! More information?

<http://www.edrobertscampus.org/>

## The Peter Trier Memorial Fund

By Jonah Markowitz

I was quite shaken by the passing of my friend Peter Trier last March. I think we all were.

I have the dubious honor of being maybe the last person to speak with him before he died. I called him that morning, as I often did, because he always helped me put things in perspective. I was shocked to learn that when his attendant arrived, just a few hours later, Peter had passed.

Peter Trier served on the board from about 1998 until 2004. At various times during that period, he served as vice president, or presi-

dent. He had a rich and varied history in the Berkeley disabled community and as a Philosophy professor and lifelong teacher. He is survived by his parents William and Kathleen Trier and his brother Bill. I miss him a lot. He was a good friend.

On behalf of my friend and Easy Does It, I wish to establish the Peter Trier Memorial Fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist clients who cannot afford to pay the co-payments to use our services, or, due to an unforeseen crisis period, rack up a bill they can not pay. Clients will apply on a onetime basis to the Board Subcom-

mittee on Utilization of Services, which will decide how to disburse available funds.

Peter was a strong supporter of Easy Does It because he wanted to help people. He did a lot to create a sense of community among disabled people. He wanted people to feel supported no matter what their need. I think this is a fitting tribute to his memory.

Please send your tax-deductible contributions to: Peter Trier Memorial Fund, c/o Easy Does It Disability Assistance, 1744A University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94703

*Jonah currently serves on the EDI Board of Directors.*

## A Message from the President

By Hale Zukas

Recently an EDI client complained that when she called to ask for an attendant, she was asked, what for?

Her position was that all EDI needed to know was that she needed an attendant and for how long; why she needed an attendant was none of our business. As someone who knows the indignity of sharing private information in order to get help, I was sympathetic. I would like to explain why we

think it is a legitimate area of enquiry.

EDI's mandate under Measure E is to serve urgent and unforeseen attendant needs which can not be served by other programs, such as In-Home Support Services. Over 99% of attendant services in Berkeley are provided under these other programs. In order to fulfill our contract we must have attendants available for whatever else might arise. Given the limited resources available, EDI sometimes has to make choices

that don't please some people.

Suppose, for instance, that there is one attendant available and someone calls who needs some shopping or laundry done, then five minutes later, someone who needs help with toileting calls? Seems lousy to be the dispatcher who has to tell someone whose bladder is about to burst, sorry, you will have to wait an hour.

*Hale Zukas is a Policy Analyst at the World Institute on Disability and currently serves as EDI's Board President.*

## Founders' Night

Easy Does It was once the brainchild of the late Cece Weeks. She thought people who needed attendants to live independently should pool their resources and cover each other's backs— instead of worrying that one day no one would show up to get them out of bed.

When she started EDI ten years ago, she ran it from her living room. Were you there in the beginning? Do you remember those days? If so, come back and tell us about them.

This fall we are planning a banquet and award ceremony for the founders of Easy Does It.

We hope it will inspire you to become a part of our strategic planning process— to map where we are going and keep our original vision alive.

This fall, check your mailbox, watch your inbox, send in feedback, and stay tuned.

### THANK YOU!!

Easy Does It welcomes donations! We would like to thank the following donors publicly for their financial support:

Berkeley Patient's Club

Leslie Gordon

Jonah Markowitz

Nancy McCreary

If you like what we do, please consider making a contribution. Even small donations tell our funders that this service matters to you. You can detach and mail the enclosed form with your tax-deductible donation. With questions please contact any office staff at (510) 845 5513.

## New Ways to Give Back...

Not all of our clients can afford to make financial donations to Easy Does It. Most people on our service have fixed incomes. For many their chief source of funds is Social Security. But this shouldn't mean that you have nothing to give. Here are a few other ways you can donate to EDI.

### eScrip

Easy Does It is registered with eScrip, the original Internet fund-raising program, and still the largest. When you use a credit card or a frequent shoppers cards at places like Safeway or Longs, participating merchants donate 2 to 10% of your purchase to Easy Does It.

To join visit [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). There is a full list of participating merchants on the website. You will

need to register your credit, debit, and frequent shoppers' cards, and to select Easy Does It as your beneficiary.

Participating merchants will send eScrip a contribution automatically.

### Cellular Recycling

Remember what clunkers cell phones used to be? Want to donate old cell phones and pagers to a worthy cause?

Easy Does It is now collecting cell phones as a fundraiser. Just call the office to arrange a pick up or drop off for your old equipment.

We recycle the phones through [WirelessFundraiser.com](http://WirelessFundraiser.com), helping the environment and raising money along the way.

### Volunteer

Considered joining the Board of Directors? Or maybe there is just one particular issue you think EDI could use some help with? Call us up. We welcome your input.

EDI has always been a community run organization. We need your help to maintain transparency and to stay relevant.

To get involved, just drop us an email or give us a call! We would love to hear your ideas.

### LAST MINUTE REMINDERS:

- Go to [www.easyland.org](http://www.easyland.org) to view our online content and make suggestions!
- Register your purchase cards at [eScrip.com](http://eScrip.com).
- Donate your old cellular.
- Come to our next Board meeting! Get involved!

**Easy Does It  
Disability Assistance**



1744A University Ave  
Berkeley, CA 94703

Phone: 510-845-5513

Fax: 510-2115

Email: [edi@easyland.org](mailto:edi@easyland.org)

**Living independently in the age of  
disability....**

Read our Newsletter on the Web:

[Http://www.easyland.org/](http://www.easyland.org/)

To DONATE: Please detach and remit flip side to Easy Does It  
Disability Assistance.

**Thank You!**

I would like to support Easy Does It Disability Assistance in their mission to provide comprehensive emergency services to people with mobility impairments in Berkeley, California.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of  
\$\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check
- ☐ Money Order

I would like my money to go toward:

- ☐ General Operations Fund
- ☐ Strategic Planning Fund
- ☐ Peter Trier Memorial Fund