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Follow Our News



New board member Janet Byron co-authored *Berkeley Walks*, now in its second edition.

Janet Byron: A Tailor-Made Editor for Our Monthly e-Newsletter

Our new board member Janet Byron has a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley and years of experience as a reporter, writer, and editor. Could she have better qualifications to become the new editor of our

Buy Our Map



The best map of Berkeley's paths and streets just got even better! Order your copy of the fresh-off-the-presses 8th edition of *Berkeley and Its Pathways*. [Get your copy.](#)

Join or Renew



Did you forget to pay your \$5 dues for 2019? We do not

monthly e-newsletter?

In fact, the answer is a resounding “Yes!”

Janet also is an experienced BPWA walk leader and co-author, with Bob Johnson, of the popular guidebook [Berkeley Walks](#). As if that weren't enough, this will be her second stint with our newsletter. From 2000 to 2002, Janet edited the then one-page, front-and-back, 8½” x 14” quarterly.

You can see why we were thrilled to have Janet back.

After she earned her journalism degree in 1991, she did a series of eclectic writing and editing jobs, among them reporting for the *Oakland Tribune* and the *El Cerrito Journal*. She also freelanced for a variety of clients, ranging from the World Wildlife Fund to *Food Chemical News* and the Judicial Council of California. [Read more.](#)



Your Support Keeps our Paths Open and Safe

Great thanks to everyone who recently joined, renewed a membership or donated to BPWA! You are helping us maintain and extend Berkeley's incredible paths. We appreciate your generosity and support.

If you haven't had a chance to join or donate, it's not too late to do so for 2018. [Donate](#) or [Join](#) today!

Walk With Us

Join us on our terrific guided walks, which are free and open to all. Unless otherwise noted, they last 2-3 hours

want to lose you. [Please renew today.](#)

Support BPWA



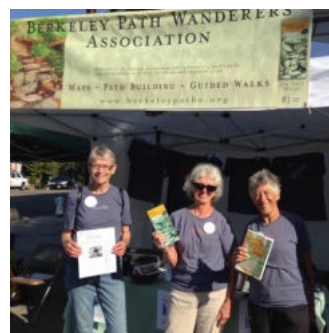
Your generosity enables us to build more paths and continue to offer our path-oriented events. [Donate now.](#)

Shop Online



We sell Path Wanderer shirts, hats, and tote bags as well as guidebooks, posters, and note cards. [Visit our store.](#)

Get to Know Us



Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots organization of people who treasure the public

and proceed at a moderate, conversational pace. We're sorry, but we can't accommodate your dogs except on walks specified as dog friendly. Please check our [home page](#) for last-minute weather cancellations. Questions about a walk? Write walks@berkeleypaths.org



The newer part of Public Path #6 in Kensington will be one of the more picturesque parts of our New Year's Day walk.

Stepping Into the New Year

Tuesday, January 1 @ 1 p.m.

Leaders: Glen Lindwall and Jacob Lehmann Duke

Start: Parking lot below [285 Arlington Ave.](#)

Get off on the right foot in 2019, or walk off any lingering remnants of the old one. On this four-mile route, we will take the high ground on the Kensington/Berkeley border, including — if it's not too muddy — Ye Olde School Trail that borders Tilden Park. We'll also stop in Dorothy Bolte Park so those who want to can enjoy the slide. This walk has many stairs, but our pace will be conversational. However, if you want a more vigorous workout, you can go ahead and try to keep up with Jacob's faster rate.

pathways that crisscross our city. [Read more.](#)

Meet Our Friends

You'll find links to many other organizations that promote walking, pedestrian safety, protecting the environment, and more on our [website.](#)



If the weather is good, we'll get some panoramic views from the Belgium Trail in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

Hills, Trails, and Vistas in Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Regional Parks

Sunday, January 13, 10 a.m.

Leaders: Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein

Start: The Little Farm in Tilden ([600 Canon Dr.](#))

This ten-mile loop hike with 1,100 feet of elevation gain will feature spectacular views; quiet, single-track trails past meadows full of cows; and, of course, lots of hills! From the Little Farm, we'll begin with a steep ascent to the top of Wildcat Peak, where we'll pause to catch our breath and enjoy the panoramas. Although that point is only 1.3 miles into our route, our climbing will be half over. We'll then walk down to the paved Nimitz Way and descend gradually on a little-used side trail with more great views of the canyon, possibly including a coyote. At the end of Nimitz Way, we'll take some of the famously steep hills on the San Pablo Ridge Trail, stopping for a BYO picnic lunch. The route then heads down the Belgum trail at the northern end of Wildcat Canyon. Our last four miles will cover the rolling hills of the shaded Wildcat Creek Trail, taking us past Jewel Lake and back to our start. Expect a moderate-to-fast pace and some uneven, potentially muddy terrain.



Finished in 2009, Lower Covert is one of the loveliest of the newer paths, with a seasonal creek crossing it near the bottom and an 8' bridge to help walkers keep their feet dry.

15 Years of Path-Building

Saturday, February 2 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Charlie Bowen

Start: Fountain at the corner of [Shasta Road and Park Gate](#)

Marvel at the accomplishments of our volunteer path builders on this two-mile loop through the North Berkeley Hills. Charlie, one of our path-building co-leads, will take us on 19 of the wood-timber paths that BPWA has finished in the last 15 years. Expect lots of steps and steep uphill and downhill stretches during this 2½-hour walk. Charlie will keep up a moderate pace, stopping occasionally to share some of the highs and lows of building these paths.



Volunteers can use equipment stored in these boxes, including nets and trash barrels, to clear debris from Lake Merritt.

Lake Merritt: The Jewel of Oakland

Thursday, February 21 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Sheryl Drinkwater and Susan Schwartz

Start: Oak Street entrance of [Oakland Museum \(1000 Oak Street\)](#)

On this easy, mostly level 3.2-mile loop around Lake Merritt, we'll see wintering birds and elegant architecture and hear some local history. But the main focus will be the green infrastructure that supports this watery jewel — actually a tidal lagoon — including rain gardens, native plantings, and a green roof. We'll learn how citizen stewards have “adopted” spots along the lake and about U-Clean-It boxes that contain equipment for volunteers to use to clear debris from the shoreline. Susan and Sheryl, veterans of Friends of Five Creeks, also will talk about the fountains that oxygenate the lake to improve water quality, huge vortex filters that trap trash, recent restoration efforts, and possible effects of sea-level rise.

Benches, water fountains, and restrooms are available along the route. Those who don't want to walk the full loop, which may take 2½ hours, can get the gist of the narration in the first third and then return. Consider staying for an optional lunch at the museum cafe after the walk (no museum admission required). The museum will be open, however, for those who want to visit the galleries.

Join Our Work Parties



Our orange-bucket brigade takes a break from sweeping debris from Martinez Path.

Help us Keep our Paths Clear for Emergencies Monday, January 21 @ 11 a.m.

Help us transform a weed-obscured path into a safe and lovely walkway. Please email [Mary Lynch](mailto:Mary.Lynch) if you can come to the work party, and she will send you the location. We supply refreshments and gloves and tools, but feel free to bring your own.

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