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MEET BARBARA ROBBEN, PATH PAL



Barbara Robben tends the four aloes plants at on Fountain Walk, below Marin circle.

Path Pal Barbara Robben: Paths runner, booster, and volunteer

By Janet Byron

Barbara Robben, 87, has been a path runner, booster, and volunteer for the more than half a century that she's lived in Berkeley/.

A resident of El Dorado Avenue — a half-block from Marin Circle — Robben weeded

Fountain Walk for 10 years and continues to take care of the 4 large aloe plants that mark the bottom of the path. She tended the area off of Los Angeles Avenue near the new Jacque Ensign Way for many years, as well as the small triangle of grass and trees at the corner of El Dorado and Hopkins Street.

“When I see something on a path that needs doing, I do it,” says Robben, who is a UC Berkeley graduate in geology and soils sciences, mother of 4, and grandmother of 3.

[READ MORE](#)

To support our path-building efforts, go to www.berkeleypaths.org/your-donations-help. All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, and purchasing handrails.

Do you know someone who takes care of a path? Are you a secret path pal? Please let us know and you (or they) may be featured in an upcoming newsletter. Write to info@berkeleypaths.org.

WALKS! WALKS! WALKS!



Each child will get a Bingo card with 25 pictures. The cards have the same pictures but in different order.

[I-Spy Bingo Walk](#)

Date: Sunday, July 11, 10 a.m.

Leader: Sandy Friedland

Meet: Steps of John Muir School, [2955 Claremont Ave, Berkeley](http://2955ClaremontAveBerkeley)

Hooray! Sandy's Bingo walks for kids are back. A cross between a scavenger hunt and an I-Spy game, this adventure is geared to 4- to 8-year olds. Sharp-eyed players will walk together through parts of the Claremont and Elmwood neighborhoods as they search for 25 items, such as Little Free Libraries and yard art. Everyone will be a winner! The approximate 2-mile route will be on sidewalks and include some stair paths and mildly hilly streets. We'll make frequent stops, including for refreshments. An adult must accompany each child, and unvaccinated adults and children must wear masks.

Another version of this walk is available for kids 9-12. They will get a map of the route to follow as they look for the items on their Bingo cards. So long as they are accompanied by an adult, small groups can go out on their own.

Pre-registration is required. [E-mail Sandy](#) with your child's name and age.



Grotto Rock Park is one of the 4 rock parks we'll visit on a 6- to 7-mile walk.

[Rocks and Rock Parks](#)

Date: Sunday, July 25, 9:30 a.m.

Leader: John Ford

Distance: 6 to 7 miles

Meet: Northeast corner of The Alameda and Solano Avenue in Berkeley

Note: Unvaccinated adults and children must wear masks

Northeast Berkeley has quite a few rock outcroppings, mainly of a type of volcanic rock called rhyolite. Some of these have been turned into small parks, while others are in people's yards or have been used in rock walls. We'll visit four different rock parks, each of which have great views, and two other parks that have some great rocks. Be prepared for steep paths and uneven footing on this 6- to 7-mile walk, which will take 3 to 3.5 hours at a brisk pace.

Questions? Write to John Ford at johnford19@gmail.com.



[Berkeley Hills sunset hike](#)

Date: Friday, August 20, 6 to 9 p.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Meet: East side of Euclid Ave, across from end of Eunice St

Note: Unvaccinated adults and children must wear masks

Grab a flashlight and let's kick-off the weekend with a nice evening hike! The route is steep and we'll have to get up six long staircases as we head up from Euclid Ave to Grizzly Peak Blvd, onto a nice stretch of Tilden's Selby Trail, and then to our sunset spot on the ridge above the Lawrence Hall of Science. If the fog stays away, the views are worth the effort! We will enjoy a snack break with panoramic views and wait for the sunset before we head back down. Bring flashlights, snacks, and warm layers for our break on the ridge and the walk back after dark.

The route is 4 miles, with hills and staircases. Estimated duration is 3 hours.



[Bungalows, palaces, and paths: Exploring Upper Rockridge in person!](#)

Date and time: Sunday, August 29, 10 a.m. to noon

Leaders: Robert Johnson and Janet Byron

Distance: 3 miles, with ups and downs.

Meet: Rockridge BART station at the bottom of the escalators, near large "Rockridge" sign.

Note: Unvaccinated adults and children must wear masks

Bob Johnson and Janet Byron shared their virtual tour, "Bungalows, palaces, and paths: Exploring Upper Rockridge," in May. Now join them for the real thing! We will stroll along tree-lined streets with early-20th-century Craftsman bungalows off College Avenue and the commercial district south of Rockridge BART. Then we climb into the hills above Broadway to explore the residential areas, including areas partially burned and rebuilt after the disastrous 1991 fire. There will be views, mansions, gardens, and lots of public stairways.

The 46-minute tour — including Locarno Path, above — was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

PATH WORK PARTY - JULY 17



Path maintenance work parties are back! The next one will be July 17, 10 a.m. to noon. The work will be mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments. To RSVP and receive an email with the meeting place, write to Mary Lynch at path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org.



Reporting path problems

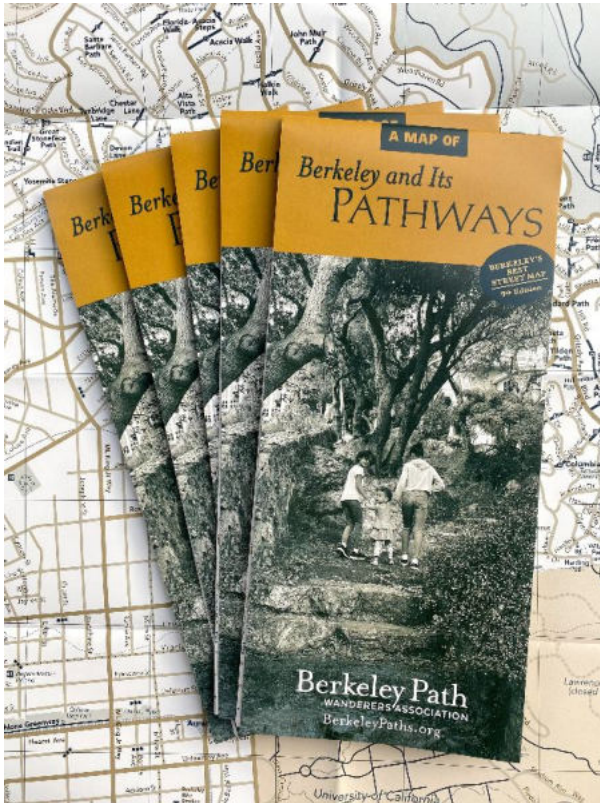
BPWA now has an [online form](#) for reporting problems that you come across on the paths. Please let us know about missing signs, broken steps, overgrown weeds, graffiti, and anything else you come across. We can't solve every problem by ourselves, but we will keep track of problems and concerns, and route them to the right city departments. The form is under the "Get Involved" tab at berkeleypaths.org.

GET YOUR NEW PATHS MAP!

The best map of Berkeley just got better!

The 9th edition of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's indispensable map, *Berkeley and Its Pathways* — featuring more than 136 public stairways and footpaths in Berkeley, and much much more — is now [available for purchase](#).

"It's fun to discover new neighborhoods in Berkeley, and the best way to do that is to walk



the paths,” says Colleen Neff, former BPWA president and chair of the map committee.

[READ MORE](#)

BUY NOW

SELF-GUIDED WALKS

Online resources for self-guided Berkeley walks



Many folks are walking closer to home these days, and our [self-guided walks](#) page is getting lots of traffic. We are happy to provide these resources, and hope you are enjoying your solo and/or socially distanced explorations.

Left, Tamalpais Path.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a community organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. [Learn more](#)

The BPWA board meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 9 p.m., virtually until further notice. Guests are welcome! Please contact info@berkeleypaths.com for more information.

Your generosity enables us to build more paths, add handrails, and hold fun events on the paths. [Donate now](#)

