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## THE ZEN OF PICKING UP TRASH



*Elsa Tranter at the Berkeley Marina; she recently completed her 2nd full year of weekly beach cleanups.*

**“It’s meditative”: Elsa Tranter and the Zen of Picking Up Trash**

## *Berkeley grandmother still going strong after 2nd year of weekly beach cleanups*

By Janet Byron

I've joined Elsa Tranter for her 101st beach cleanup at the Berkeley Marina, on January 23, 2021. Two weeks later, she will complete her second full year of weekly shoreline cleanups.

"Yr 2 wk 52 beach clean-up," she wrote on her [Facebook page](#). "Berkeley bay at very low tide. Lucky seven dice; muddy boots and 4 bags of debris. And toward the end Colleen [Neff] showed up to document the dumping of the last bags into the garbage bins. An exhilarating and productive day."

Inspired by the humorist David Sedaris's storied daily quest to pick up litter in the South Downs of England and by an English grandmother who cleaned 52 beaches in 2018, Tranter, a long-time volunteer and recent board member of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, embarked on her [Great Bay Area Beach Cleanup](#) in early 2019.

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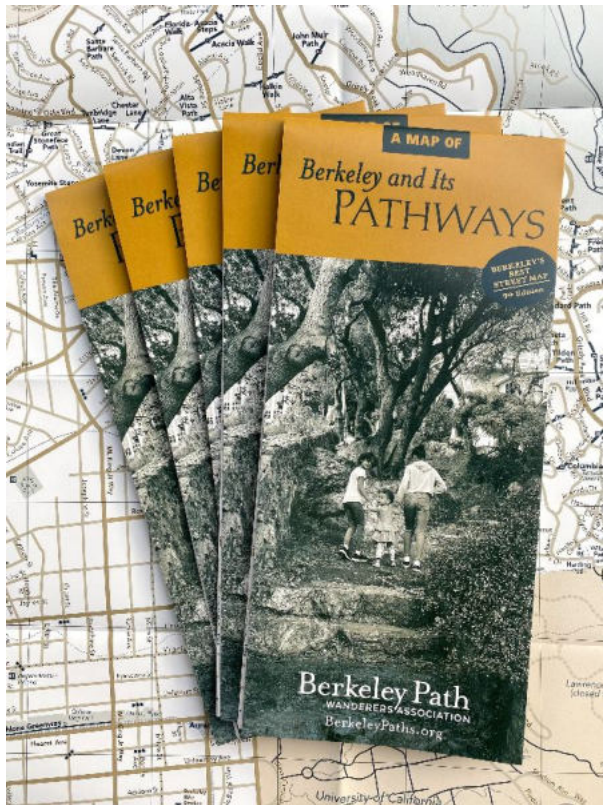
**GET YOUR NEW PATH MAP!**

### **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](#). **Order yours by March 1st for free shipping!**

"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.

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## 2020 PATHS SUPPORTERS

**Thank you to our generous donors!**

We are grateful for the continued support and generosity of members who made donations to Berkeley Path Wanderers in 2020. See their names [here](#).



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## 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, accessed from Codornices Park.*

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### Your support helps us build paths

With [Lower Columbia Path](#) (shown, under construction) and [Lower Halkin Walk](#), BPWA is proud to have finished two new paths in 2020, an unusually challenging year! None of our work would be possible without your support. If you enjoy walking the paths, please support our organization so we can keep building paths like these. Each eucalyptus step is \$25 and a path with a 50-foot rise needs 100 of them. A new path also needs to be surveyed, a \$1,500 to \$3,500 expense. Handrails are the most expensive item on our wish list: \$15,000 to \$25,000 per path.



We are a nonprofit organization that is 100% volunteer-run, so every dollar of your tax-deductible gift goes to our cherished paths. Thank you for supporting the paths!

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## 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](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.com) for more information.

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



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