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Upcoming Events



BPWA's Annual Meeting, November 16, to Focus on Preparing for Emergencies

With the tragic Wine Country fires fresh in our minds, along with lingering images of devastation from the earthquake in Mexico and recent hurricanes, the focus of our Annual Meeting could not be more timely!

On Thursday, November 16, at 7p.m. at [The Hillside Club](#), our keynote speakers will be Khin Chin, of [Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services](#), and Acting Fire Chief David Brannigan. They will present simple, specific steps that you can take to prepare your household for disasters, both those that call for immediate evacuation, like a fire, and those that could require sheltering in place, like an earthquake.

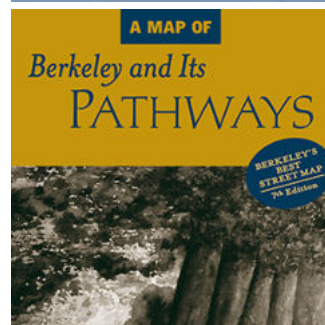
Among the topics the speakers will cover are: how to put

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The New York Times calls it ... "a terrific map of all the secret routes and corridors in Berkeley." It's also the best street map of the city you can buy! [Get your copy.](#)

Support BPWA

together a “go bag;” what survival supplies to keep in your car; and communications strategies in crisis situations, including mobile apps. And, of course, they will stress how vital Berkeley’s paths would be in a disaster. In many cases, they may be the only way residents can escape and first responders can reach emergencies. [Read more.](#)

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 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



Ina Coolbrith, pictured here in the 1880s, is the first woman writer to have a Berkeley path named in her honor.

Ina Coolbrith & Friends

Sunday, November 12 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Aleta George



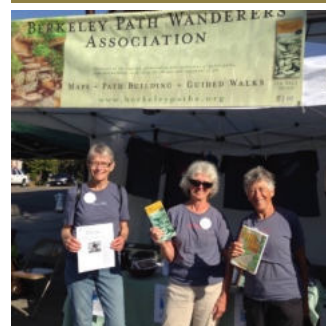
Your generosity enables us to build more paths and continue to offer our path-oriented events. [Donate now.](#)

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 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.](#)

Start: [Cragmont Rock Park](#)

Join Aleta George, author of *Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate*, on a four-mile loop walk on the roads and pathways named for some of the Bay Area's literary pioneers. A highlight will be the [stairway that BPWA renamed](#) in Coolbrith's honor, where the Berkeley Historical Society and the Berkeley Historical Plaque Project have installed an informational plaque on Coolbrith. Aleta developed this route during her frequent walks when she was writing her book. On the walk, Aleta will tell stories about Coolbrith and her colleagues [Bret Harte](#), [Joaquin Miller](#), and [Charles Keeler](#). This walk has stairs and some steep streets.



Some outcrops in Thousand Oaks, like this one on Indian Rock, display smooth faces that may have been polished by Ice Age mammoths.

Berkeley's Changing Ground: The Hayward Fault, Landslides, and Volcanoes

Saturday, November 18 @ 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Andrew Alden

Start: [Codornices Park Playground](#)

The steep residential hills of North Berkeley owe their picturesque qualities to three great geological forces: mass wasting (landslides), tectonism (earthquake faulting), and volcanism (lava flows). Andrew, who has a [blog](#) that focuses on East Bay geology and is writing a book on the subject, will take us on a 3.3-mile route with

informative stops at Berkeley's distinctive rock parks. We'll explore vivid signs of past volcanic activity — thankfully, no longer a threat! Along the way, we'll also encounter evidence of giants *in* the Earth: large active landslides, the inexorable Hayward Fault, and marks left by mammoths during the Ice Age when Berkeley was even more unusual than it is today. Expect stairways and some hilly streets, which may be slippery with dead leaves.



The Rotary Peace Grove Lookout will inspire some heartfelt song on our Musical Peace Walk.

Musical Peace Walk

Sunday, December 3 @ 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Joel Gerwein

Start: [Entrance to Tilden Park Little Farm, by parking lot.](#)

Join us for a peace-filled, musical stroll through nature. We will meet at the Little Farm to strum for the sheep and croon for the cows. Joel will provide the music for peace-themed songs. From the farm, we will walk to the Rotary Peace Grove and Wildcat Peak, where we will take in the sweeping views from the Bay to Mount Diablo. We will return by way of the Laurel Trail, singing and playing instruments as we go. Bring your voice and your portable instruments. Families are welcome. This 3 1/2 mile walk is on uneven trails and includes some steep hills.



Betty Olds, an early champion of Berkeley's paths, lived to see one named for her.

Remembering Betty Olds

Saturday, December 9 @ 10 a.m.

Start: [Remillard Park \(80 Poppy Lane\)](#)

Leaders: Charlie Bowen and Colleen Neff

Without the seed money from long-time Berkeley City Councilwoman [Betty Olds](#), we might never have had a BPWA map (now in its 7th edition). Her early, unwavering support for the public pathways was crucial to all we've accomplished in the last 19 years. Betty passed away in July, and we will honor her by walking together, enjoying nature, and building community. This 1 1/2 hour walk will meander through the North Berkeley Hills. We'll visit Betty's namesake path as well as Ann Brower Path, Ina Coolbrith Path, and others. We'll also see the fire station near the gate to Park Hills, which Betty fought to have built after the 1991 Berkeley-Oakland Hills fire. The route will include many stairs and some uneven footing, though our pace will be leisurely. Because Betty loved animals and was the moving force behind Berkeley's new Animal Shelter, your dogs will be welcomed on this walk.

Join Our Work Parties



Lend a Hand to Replace Damaged Steps on the Rustic Paths in Codornices Park

Join our first path-building project in a park. Help replace badly eroded and rotten steps at the back of Codornices Park, which *Los Amigos de Codornices* installed more than thirty years ago. If you want lighter work, there's plenty of ivy to remove. This undertaking marks the first time BPWA is coordinating with Berkeley's Parks Department. (The path systems falls under the auspices of Public Works Engineering.)

Sunday, Nov. 5

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Remember to set your clocks back!)

Meet at [Euclid entrance](#), between the ball field and reservoir

We'll provide tools and gloves. Bring water, and stay for refreshments after we wrap up our work. Please rsvp to pathbuildersteve@att.net.



**Help Keep Our Paths Clear For Emergencies
Monday, November 13th @ 11 a.m.**

Help us transform another weed-obscured path into a safe and lovely walkway. Please email [Mary Lynch](mailto:Mary.Lynch@berkeley-path-wanderers.org) if you can come, and she will send you the location of the next Path Maintenance Work Party. We'll supply gloves and tools, but feel free to bring your own. Refreshments will be served.



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